

By Senator Gruters

22-01216-25

2025504__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Department of Transportation
3 construction projects; amending s. 334.044, F.S.;
4 revising the percentage of the contracted amount for
5 certain construction projects which the Department of
6 Transportation is required to allocate for the
7 purchase of plant materials; providing an effective
8 date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
12 Section 1. Subsection (26) of section 334.044, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 334.044 Powers and duties of the department.—The department
15 shall have the following general powers and duties:

16 (26) To provide for the enhancement of environmental
17 benefits, including air and water quality; to prevent roadside
18 erosion; to conserve the natural roadside growth and scenery;
19 and to provide for the implementation and maintenance of
20 roadside conservation, enhancement, and stabilization programs.
21 To exercise these powers and duties, the department may contract
22 with nonprofit organizations having the primary purpose of
23 developing youth employment opportunities.

24 (a) A percentage ~~At least 1.5 percent~~ of the amount
25 contracted for construction projects shall be allocated by the
26 department on a statewide basis for the purchase of plant
27 materials, as follows:

28 1. For projects contracted for up to \$50 million, 1.5
29 percent.

22-01216-25

2025504__

30 2. For projects contracted for more than \$50 million up to
31 \$100 million, 1 percent.

32 3. For projects contracted for more than \$100 million up to
33 \$250 million, 0.75 percent.

34 4. For projects contracted for more than \$250 million up to
35 \$500 million, 0.5 percent.

36 5. For projects contracted for \$500 million or more, 0.1
37 percent.

38 (b) Department districts may not expend funds for
39 landscaping in connection with any project that is limited to
40 resurfacing existing lanes unless the expenditure has been
41 approved by the department's secretary or the secretary's
42 designee.

43 (c) To the greatest extent practical, at least 50 percent
44 of the funds allocated under this subsection shall be allocated
45 for large plant materials and the remaining funds for other
46 plant materials. Except as prohibited by applicable federal law
47 or regulation, all plant materials shall be purchased from
48 Florida commercial nursery stock in this state on a uniform
49 competitive bid basis. The department shall develop grades and
50 standards for landscaping materials purchased through this
51 process. ~~To accomplish these activities, the department may~~
52 ~~contract with nonprofit organizations having the primary purpose~~
53 ~~of developing youth employment opportunities.~~

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.