

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to toll discounts for veteran-owned
 3 businesses; amending s. 338.155, F.S.; providing a
 4 discount for certain veteran-owned businesses on
 5 payment of tolls for the use of toll facilities;
 6 providing requirements to qualify for the exemption;
 7 providing requirements for the discount; requiring the
 8 Florida Turnpike Enterprise in coordination with the
 9 Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of
 10 Management Services to administer the discount
 11 program; establishing a 2-year pilot program and
 12 reporting requirements; providing an effective date.

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 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 16 **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**
 17 **338.155, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

18 338.155 Payment of toll on toll facilities required;
 19 exemptions.—

20 (1) (a) A person may not use a toll facility without
 21 payment of tolls, except:

22 1. An employee of the agency operating the toll project
 23 when using the toll facility on official state business.

24 2. State military personnel while on official military
 25 business.

26 3. A person with a disability as provided in subsection
27 (3).

28 4. A person exempt from toll payment by the authorizing
29 resolution for bonds issued to finance the facility.

30 5. A person exempt on a temporary basis where use of such
31 toll facility is required as a detour route.

32 6. A law enforcement officer operating an official vehicle
33 while on official law enforcement business.

34 7. A person operating a fire vehicle while on official
35 business or a rescue vehicle while on official business.

36 8. A person participating in the funeral procession of a
37 law enforcement officer or firefighter killed in the line of
38 duty.

39 9.a. A veteran-owned business, pursuant to a 2-year pilot
40 program established by the department consistent with this
41 subparagraph. To be eligible, the business must:

42 (I) Be a veteran business enterprise as defined in s.
43 295.187 and be certified by the Department of Management
44 Services.

45 (II) Demonstrate regular commercial use of toll roads
46 through automated toll accounts.

47 b. Eligible businesses shall receive a 50 percent discount
48 on business-related toll expenses incurred on Florida toll
49 roads. The discount applies only to registered commercial
50 vehicles used for business operations.

51 c. The program will be administered by the Florida
52 Turnpike Enterprise in coordination with the Department of
53 Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Management Services.

54 d. Veteran-owned businesses must apply annually, providing
55 proof of veteran ownership and toll usage.

56 e. Discounts will be applied through automated toll
57 accounts.

58 f. The department shall prepare a review and impact report
59 of the pilot program and submit its findings to the Legislature
60 by July 1, 2026. The report must assess participation rates,
61 fiscal impact, and recommendations for continuation or
62 expansion.

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