

HB 5501E

2026E

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to documentary stamp tax  
3           distributions; amending s. 201.15, F.S.; revising  
4           distribution of documentary stamp tax proceeds;  
5           amending s. 343.58, F.S.; prohibiting the transfer of  
6           specified funds to the South Florida Regional  
7           Transportation Authority; providing an effective date.  
8

9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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11           **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section**  
12 **201.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

13           201.15 Distribution of taxes collected.—All taxes  
14           collected under this chapter are hereby pledged and shall be  
15           first made available to make payments when due on bonds issued  
16           pursuant to s. 215.618 or s. 215.619, or any other bonds  
17           authorized to be issued on a parity basis with such bonds. Such  
18           pledge and availability for the payment of these bonds shall  
19           have priority over any requirement for the payment of service  
20           charges or costs of collection and enforcement under this  
21           section. All taxes collected under this chapter, except taxes  
22           distributed to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to  
23           subsections (1) and (2), are subject to the service charge  
24           imposed in s. 215.20(1). Before distribution pursuant to this  
25           section, the Department of Revenue shall deduct amounts

26 necessary to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of  
 27 the tax levied by this chapter. The costs and service charge may  
 28 not be levied against any portion of taxes pledged to debt  
 29 service on bonds to the extent that the costs and service charge  
 30 are required to pay any amounts relating to the bonds. All of  
 31 the costs of the collection and enforcement of the tax levied by  
 32 this chapter and service charge shall be available and  
 33 transferred to the extent necessary to pay debt service and any  
 34 other amounts payable with respect to bonds authorized before  
 35 January 1, 2017, secured by revenues distributed pursuant to  
 36 this section. All taxes remaining after deduction of costs shall  
 37 be distributed as follows:

38 (4) After the required distributions to the Land  
 39 Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) and  
 40 deduction of the service charge imposed pursuant to s.  
 41 215.20(1), the remainder shall be distributed as follows:

42 (a) The lesser of 20.5453 percent of the remainder or  
 43 \$420.08 ~~\$360.08~~ million in each fiscal year shall be paid into  
 44 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Transportation  
 45 Trust Fund. Notwithstanding any other law, the amount credited  
 46 to the State Transportation Trust Fund shall be used for:

- 47 1. The Small County Outreach Program specified in s.  
 48 339.2818, in the amount of 11 ~~13~~ percent of the funds;
- 49 2. The Strategic Intermodal System specified in ss.  
 50 339.61, 339.62, 339.63, and 339.64, in the amount of 67 ~~78~~

51 percent of the funds; ~~and~~

52 3. The Transportation Regional Incentive Program specified  
 53 in s. 339.2819, in the amount of 8 9 percent of the funds; and

54 4. The Florida Rail Enterprise for the purpose established  
 55 in s. 341.303, in the amount of 14 percent of the funds.

56 **Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 343.58, Florida**  
 57 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

58 343.58 County funding for the South Florida Regional  
 59 Transportation Authority.—

60 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
 61 contrary and effective July 1, 2010, until as provided in  
 62 paragraph (d) ~~(e)~~, the department shall transfer annually from  
 63 the State Transportation Trust Fund to the South Florida  
 64 Regional Transportation Authority the amounts specified in  
 65 subparagraph (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2.

66 (a)1. If the authority becomes responsible for maintaining  
 67 and dispatching the South Florida Rail Corridor:

68 a. \$15 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund to  
 69 the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority for  
 70 operations, maintenance, and dispatch; and

71 b. An amount no less than the work program commitments  
 72 equal to \$27.1 million for fiscal year 2010-2011, as of July 1,  
 73 2009, for operating assistance to the authority and corridor  
 74 track maintenance and contract maintenance for the South Florida  
 75 Rail Corridor.

76           2. If the authority does not become responsible for  
77 maintaining and dispatching the South Florida Rail Corridor:

78           a. \$13.3 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund  
79 to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority for  
80 operations; and

81           b. An amount no less than the work program commitments  
82 equal to \$17.3 million for fiscal year 2010-2011, as of July 1,  
83 2009, for operating assistance to the authority.

84           (b) Funding required by this subsection may not be  
85 provided from the funds dedicated to the Florida Rail Enterprise  
86 pursuant to s. 201.15(4)(a)4.

87           (c) ~~(b)~~1. Funds provided to the authority by the department  
88 under this subsection constitute state financial assistance  
89 provided to a nonstate entity to carry out a state project  
90 subject to ss. 215.97 and 215.971. The department shall provide  
91 the funds in accordance with the terms of a written agreement to  
92 be entered into between the authority and the department, which  
93 shall provide for department review, approval, and audit of  
94 authority expenditure of such funds and shall include such other  
95 provisions as are required by applicable law. The department is  
96 specifically authorized to agree to advance the authority 25  
97 percent of the total funds provided under this subsection for a  
98 state fiscal year at the beginning of each state fiscal year,  
99 with monthly payments over the fiscal year on a reimbursement  
100 basis as supported by invoices and such additional documentation

101 and information as the department may reasonably require and a  
102 reconciliation of the advance against remaining invoices in the  
103 last quarter of the fiscal year.

104 2. To enable the department to evaluate the authority's  
105 proposed uses of state funds, the authority shall annually  
106 provide the department with its proposed budget for the  
107 following authority fiscal year and shall promptly provide the  
108 department with any additional documentation or information  
109 required by the department for its evaluation of the proposed  
110 uses of the state funds.

111 (d)~~(e)~~ Funding required by this subsection shall cease  
112 upon commencement of an alternate dedicated local funding source  
113 sufficient for the authority to meet its responsibilities for  
114 operating, maintaining, and dispatching the South Florida Rail  
115 Corridor. The authority and the department shall cooperate in  
116 the effort to identify and implement such an alternate dedicated  
117 local funding source before July 1, 2019. Upon commencement of  
118 the alternate dedicated local funding source, the department  
119 shall convey to the authority a perpetual commuter rail easement  
120 in the South Florida Rail Corridor and all of the department's  
121 right, title, and interest in rolling stock, equipment, tracks,  
122 and other personal property owned and used by the department for  
123 the operation and maintenance of the commuter rail operations in  
124 the South Florida Rail Corridor.

125 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.