

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senators Latvala,  
Galvano, and Rouson

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
3           Authority; amending s. 339.175, F.S.; creating the  
4           Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan  
5           Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee to  
6           replace the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation  
7           Authority Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs  
8           Coordinating Committee; providing that the Tampa Bay  
9           Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan Planning  
10          Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee is created  
11          within the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority;  
12          amending s. 343.90, F.S.; revising the short title to  
13          "Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Act";  
14          amending s. 343.91, F.S.; revising the definition of  
15          the term "authority" to mean the Tampa Bay Area  
16          Regional Transit Authority and to include only  
17          Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties  
18          and any other contiguous county that is party to an  
19          agreement of participation; revising the definition of  
20          the term "commuter rail"; amending s. 343.92, F.S.;  
21          creating the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
22          Authority, instead of the Tampa Bay Area Regional  
23          Transportation Authority; decreasing voting membership  
24          on the governing board of the authority; requiring the  
25          members to be appointed within a specified period;  
26          revising appointment and term requirements of such  
27          membership; revising requirements for filling  
28          vacancies on the board; requiring the Governor to  
29          appoint an initial chair of the board from one of the

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30 three members appointed by the Governor; requiring the  
31 board to elect a chair from among certain members at  
32 the end of the initial chair's term; providing that  
33 seven members of the board constitute a quorum;  
34 providing that the vote of seven members is necessary  
35 for any action to be taken by the authority; requiring  
36 the board to evaluate the abolishment, continuance,  
37 modification, or establishment of specified committees  
38 beginning on a specified date; requiring the board to  
39 submit its recommendations for abolishment,  
40 continuance, modification, or establishment of the  
41 committees to the Legislature before a specified time;  
42 deleting requirements related to the establishment of  
43 a Transit Management Committee, a Citizens Advisory  
44 Committee, and technical advisory committees;  
45 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
46 amending s. 343.922, F.S.; revising the express  
47 purposes of the authority to include planning,  
48 implementing, and operating mobility improvements and  
49 expansions of certain multimodal transportation  
50 options, producing a certain regional transit  
51 development plan, and serving as the recipient of  
52 certain federal funds under certain circumstances;  
53 directing the authority to provide to the Legislature  
54 a plan to produce the regional transit development  
55 plan by a specified date; providing requirements for  
56 the regional transit development plan; requiring the  
57 authority to develop and adopt a regional transit  
58 development plan instead of a transportation master

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59 plan; deleting obsolete provisions; conforming  
60 provisions to changes made by the act; amending ss.  
61 343.94, 343.947, 343.95, 343.975, and 343.976, F.S.;  
62 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
63 providing an effective date.  
64

65 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
66

67 Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (6) of section  
68 339.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

69 339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.—

70 (6) POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The powers,  
71 privileges, and authority of an M.P.O. are those specified in  
72 this section or incorporated in an interlocal agreement  
73 authorized under s. 163.01. Each M.P.O. shall perform all acts  
74 required by federal or state laws or rules, now and subsequently  
75 applicable, which are necessary to qualify for federal aid. It  
76 is the intent of this section that each M.P.O. shall be involved  
77 in the planning and programming of transportation facilities,  
78 including, but not limited to, airports, intercity and high-  
79 speed rail lines, seaports, and intermodal facilities, to the  
80 extent permitted by state or federal law.

81 (i) The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~  
82 Authority Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating  
83 Committee is created within the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
84 ~~Transportation~~ Authority, composed of the M.P.O.'s serving  
85 Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk,  
86 and Sarasota Counties. The authority shall provide  
87 administrative support and direction to the committee. The

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88 committee must, at a minimum:

89 1. Coordinate transportation projects deemed to be  
90 regionally significant by the committee.

91 2. Review the impact of regionally significant land use  
92 decisions on the region.

93 3. Review all proposed regionally significant  
94 transportation projects in the respective transportation  
95 improvement programs which affect more than one of the M.P.O.'s  
96 represented on the committee.

97 4. Institute a conflict resolution process to address any  
98 conflict that may arise in the planning and programming of such  
99 regionally significant projects.

100 Section 2. Section 343.90, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
101 read:

102 343.90 Short title.—This part may be cited as the "Tampa  
103 Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority Act."

104 Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (1) of  
105 section 343.91, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

106 343.91 Definitions.—

107 (1) As used in this part, the term:

108 (a) "Authority" means the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
109 ~~Transportation~~ Authority, the body politic and corporate and  
110 agency of the state created by this part, covering ~~the seven-~~  
111 ~~county area comprised of Citrus, Hernando,~~ Hillsborough,  
112 Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties and  
113 any other contiguous county that is party to an agreement of  
114 participation.

115 (e)1. "Commuter rail" means a complete system of tracks,  
116 guideways, stations, and rolling stock necessary to effectuate

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117 medium-distance to long-distance passenger rail service to,  
118 from, or within the municipalities within the authority's  
119 designated ~~seven-county~~ region.

120 2. "Heavy rail transit" means a complete rail system  
121 operating on an electric railway with the capacity for a heavy  
122 volume of traffic, characterized by high-speed and rapid-  
123 acceleration passenger rail cars operating singly or in multicar  
124 trains on fixed rails in separate rights-of-way from which all  
125 other vehicular and pedestrian traffic are excluded. "Heavy rail  
126 transit" includes metro, subway, elevated, rapid transit, and  
127 rapid rail systems.

128 3. "Light rail transit" means a complete system of tracks,  
129 overhead catenaries, stations, and platforms with lightweight  
130 passenger rail cars operating singly or in short, multicar  
131 trains on fixed rails in rights-of-way that are not separated  
132 from other traffic for much of the way.

133 Section 4. Section 343.92, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
134 read:

135 343.92 Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Transportation  
136 Authority.—

137 (1) There is created and established a body politic and  
138 corporate, an agency of the state, to be known as the Tampa Bay  
139 Area Regional Transit Transportation Authority.

140 (2) The governing board of the authority shall consist of  
141 13 15 voting members appointed no later than 45 days after the  
142 creation of the authority.

143 ~~(a) The secretary of the department shall appoint two~~  
144 ~~advisors to the board who must be the district secretary for~~  
145 ~~each of the department districts within the seven-county area of~~

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146 ~~the authority.~~

147 ~~(b) The 15 voting members of the board shall be as follows:~~

148 ~~(a)1.~~ The county commissions of Citrus, Hernando,  
149 Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas, Manatee, and  
150 Sarasota Counties shall each appoint one county commissioner  
151 ~~elected official~~ to the board. Members appointed under this  
152 paragraph subparagraph shall serve 2-year terms with not more  
153 than three consecutive terms being served by any person. If a  
154 member under this paragraph subparagraph leaves elected office,  
155 a vacancy exists on the board to be filled as provided in this  
156 paragraph within 90 days subparagraph.

157 ~~2. The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority~~  
158 ~~(TBARTA) Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating~~  
159 ~~Committee shall appoint one member to the board who must be a~~  
160 ~~chair of one of the six metropolitan planning organizations in~~  
161 ~~the region. The member appointed under this subparagraph shall~~  
162 ~~serve a 2-year term with not more than three consecutive terms~~  
163 ~~being served by any person.~~

164 ~~(b)3.a.~~ Two members of the board shall be the mayor, ~~or the~~  
165 ~~mayor's designee,~~ of the largest municipality within the service  
166 area of each of the following independent transit agencies or  
167 their legislatively created successor agencies: Pinellas  
168 Suncoast Transit Authority and Hillsborough Area Regional  
169 Transit Authority. The largest municipality is that municipality  
170 with the largest population as determined by the most recent  
171 United States Decennial Census.

172 ~~b.~~ ~~Should a mayor choose not to serve, his or her designee~~  
173 ~~must be an elected official selected by the mayor from that~~  
174 ~~largest municipality's city council or city commission. A mayor~~

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175 ~~or his or her designee shall serve a 2-year term with not more~~  
176 ~~than three consecutive terms being served by any person.~~

177 ~~e. A designee's term ends if the mayor leaves office for~~  
178 ~~any reason. If a designee leaves elected office on the city~~  
179 ~~council or commission, a vacancy exists on the board to be~~  
180 ~~filled by the mayor of that municipality as provided in sub-~~  
181 ~~subparagraph a.~~

182 (c) The following independent transit agencies or their  
183 legislatively created successor agencies shall each appoint from  
184 the membership of their governing bodies one member to the  
185 board: Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and Hillsborough Area  
186 Regional Transit Authority. Each member appointed under this  
187 paragraph shall serve a 2-year term with not more than three  
188 consecutive terms being served by any person. If a member no  
189 longer meets the transit authority's criteria for appointment, a  
190 vacancy exists on the board which must be filled as provided in  
191 this paragraph within 90 days.

192 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
193 House of Representatives shall each appoint to the board one  
194 member from the regional business community, each of whom must  
195 reside in one of the counties governed by the authority and may  
196 not be an elected official. A member initially appointed under  
197 this paragraph shall serve a 1-year term. Thereafter, a member  
198 appointed under this paragraph shall serve a 2-year term with  
199 not more than three consecutive terms being served by any  
200 person. A vacancy during a term shall be filled within 90 days  
201 in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder  
202 of the unexpired term.

203 ~~d. A mayor who has served three consecutive terms on the~~

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204 ~~board must designate an elected official from that largest~~  
205 ~~municipality's city council or city commission to serve on the~~  
206 ~~board for at least one term.~~

207 ~~4.a. One membership on the board shall rotate every 2 years~~  
208 ~~between the mayor, or his or her designee, of the largest~~  
209 ~~municipality within Manatee County and the mayor, or his or her~~  
210 ~~designee, of the largest municipality within Sarasota County.~~  
211 ~~The mayor, or his or her designee, from the largest municipality~~  
212 ~~within Manatee County shall serve the first 2-year term. The~~  
213 ~~largest municipality is that municipality with the largest~~  
214 ~~population as determined by the most recent United States~~  
215 ~~Decennial Census.~~

216 ~~b. Should a mayor choose not to serve, his or her designee~~  
217 ~~must be an elected official selected by the mayor from that~~  
218 ~~municipality's city council or city commission.~~

219 ~~(e)5.~~ The Governor shall appoint to the board three members  
220 from the regional four business community representatives, each  
221 of whom must reside in one of the ~~seven~~ counties governed by the  
222 authority and, ~~none of whom may not be an elected official~~  
223 ~~officials, and at least one but not more than two of whom shall~~  
224 ~~represent counties within the federally designated Tampa Bay~~  
225 ~~Transportation Management Area. Of the members initially~~  
226 appointed under this paragraph, one shall serve a 1-year term,  
227 one shall serve a 2-year term, and one shall serve a term as the  
228 initial chair as provided in subsection (5). Thereafter, a  
229 member ~~Members~~ appointed under this paragraph ~~by the Governor~~  
230 shall serve a 2-year term ~~3-year terms~~ with not more than three  
231 ~~two~~ consecutive terms being served by any person.

232 ~~(e)~~ Appointments may be staggered to avoid mass turnover at

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233 the end of any 2-year or 4-year period. A vacancy during a term  
234 shall be filled ~~by the respective appointing authority~~ within 90  
235 days in the same manner as the original appointment ~~and only~~ for  
236 the remainder of the unexpired term.

237 (3) The members of the board shall serve without  
238 compensation but shall be entitled to receive from the authority  
239 reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem actually incurred  
240 in connection with the business of the authority as provided in  
241 s. 112.061.

242 (4) Members of the board shall comply with the applicable  
243 financial disclosure requirements of ss. 112.3145, 112.3148, and  
244 112.3149.

245 (5) The Governor shall appoint one of the three members  
246 appointed under paragraph (2) (e) as the initial chair ~~from among~~  
247 ~~the full membership~~ of the board immediately upon their  
248 appointment. ~~In no case may those appointments be made any later~~  
249 ~~than 45 days following the creation of the authority.~~ The  
250 initial chair shall serve ~~will hold this position for~~ a minimum  
251 term of 2 years. The board shall elect a vice chair and  
252 secretary-treasurer from among its members who shall serve a  
253 minimum term of 1 year and shall establish the duties and powers  
254 of those positions during its inaugural meeting. During its  
255 inaugural meeting, the board shall ~~will~~ also establish its rules  
256 of conduct and meeting procedures.

257 (6) At the end of the initial chair's term, the board shall  
258 elect a chair from among the its members appointed by the  
259 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
260 House of Representatives. The chair shall hold office at the  
261 will of the board. In that election, the board shall also elect

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262 a vice chair and secretary-treasurer.

263 (7) The first meeting of the authority shall be held no  
264 later than 60 days after the creation of the authority.

265 (8) Seven ~~Eight~~ members of the board shall constitute a  
266 quorum, and the vote of seven ~~eight~~ members is necessary for any  
267 action to be taken by the authority. The authority may meet upon  
268 the constitution of a quorum. A vacancy does not impair the  
269 right of a quorum of the board to exercise all rights and the  
270 ability to perform all duties of the authority.

271 (9) Beginning July 1, 2017, the board must evaluate the  
272 abolishment, continuance, modification, or establishment of ~~may~~  
273 ~~establish committees for~~ the following committees ~~areas~~:

274 (a) Planning committee.

275 (b) Policy committee.

276 (c) Finance committee.

277 (d) Citizens advisory committee.

278 (e) Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan  
279 Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee.

280 (f) Transit management committee.

281 (g) Technical advisory committee.

282  
283 The board must submit its recommendations for abolishment,  
284 continuance, modification, or establishment of the committees to  
285 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
286 Representatives before the beginning of the 2018 Regular  
287 Session.

288 (10) The authority may employ an executive director, an  
289 executive secretary, its own legal counsel and legal staff,  
290 technical experts, engineers, and such employees, permanent or

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291 temporary, as it may require. The authority shall determine the  
292 qualifications and fix the compensation of such persons, firms,  
293 or corporations and may employ a fiscal agent or agents;  
294 however, the authority shall solicit sealed proposals from at  
295 least three persons, firms, or corporations for the performance  
296 of any services as fiscal agents. The authority may, except for  
297 duties specified in chapter 120, delegate its power to one or  
298 more of its agents or employees to carry out the purposes of  
299 this part, subject always to the supervision and control of the  
300 authority.

301 ~~(11) (a) The authority shall establish a Transit Management~~  
302 ~~Committee comprised of the executive directors or general~~  
303 ~~managers, or their designees, of each of the existing transit~~  
304 ~~providers and bay area commuter services.~~

305 ~~(b) The authority shall establish a Citizens Advisory~~  
306 ~~Committee comprised of appointed citizen committee members from~~  
307 ~~each county and transit provider in the region, not to exceed 16~~  
308 ~~members.~~

309 ~~(c) The authority may establish technical advisory~~  
310 ~~committees to provide guidance and advice on regional~~  
311 ~~transportation issues. The authority shall establish the size,~~  
312 ~~composition, and focus of any technical advisory committee~~  
313 ~~created.~~

314 (11) (d) Persons appointed to a committee shall serve  
315 without compensation but may be entitled to per diem or travel  
316 expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

317 Section 5. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (2),  
318 subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph (g) of subsection  
319 (5) of section 343.922, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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320 343.922 Powers and duties.—

321 (1) The express purposes of the authority are to:

322 (a) Plan, implement, and operate ~~improve~~ mobility  
323 improvements and expansions of ~~expand~~ multimodal transportation  
324 options for passengers and freight throughout the designated  
325 ~~seven-county Tampa Bay~~ region.

326 (b) Produce a regional transit development plan,  
327 integrating the transit development plans of participant  
328 counties, to include a prioritization of regionally significant  
329 transit projects and facilities.

330 1. The authority shall provide to the President of the  
331 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on or  
332 before the beginning of the 2018 Regular Session, a plan to  
333 produce the regional transit development plan.

334 2. The regional transit development plan prepared by the  
335 authority shall adhere to guidance and regulations set forth by  
336 the department or any successor agency, including, but not  
337 limited to:

338 a. Public involvement;

339 b. Collection and analysis of socioeconomic data;

340 c. Performance evaluation of existing services;

341 d. Service design and ridership forecasting; and

342 e. Financial planning.

343 (c) Serve, with the consent of the Governor or his or her  
344 designee, as the recipient of federal funds supporting an  
345 intercounty project or a regionally significant transit project  
346 that exists in a single county within the designated region.

347 (2) (a) The authority has the right to plan, develop,  
348 finance, construct, own, purchase, operate, maintain, relocate,

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349 equip, repair, and manage those public transportation projects,  
350 such as express bus services; bus rapid transit services; light  
351 rail, commuter rail, heavy rail, or other transit services;  
352 ferry services; transit stations; park-and-ride lots; transit-  
353 oriented development nodes; or feeder roads, reliever roads,  
354 connector roads, bypasses, or appurtenant facilities, that are  
355 intended to address critical transportation needs or concerns in  
356 the ~~Tampa Bay~~ region as identified by the authority ~~by July 1,~~  
357 ~~2009~~. These projects may also include all necessary approaches,  
358 roads, bridges, and avenues of access that are desirable and  
359 proper with the concurrence of the department, as applicable, if  
360 the project is to be part of the State Highway System.

361 (3) (a) ~~No later than July 1, 2009,~~ The authority shall  
362 develop and adopt a regional transit development ~~transportation~~  
363 ~~master~~ plan that provides a vision for a regionally integrated  
364 multimodal transportation system. The goals and objectives of  
365 the ~~master~~ plan are to identify areas of the ~~Tampa Bay~~ region  
366 where multimodal mobility, traffic safety, freight mobility, and  
367 efficient emergency evacuation alternatives need to be improved;  
368 identify areas of the region where multimodal transportation  
369 systems would be most beneficial to enhance mobility and  
370 economic development; develop methods of building partnerships  
371 with local governments, existing transit providers, expressway  
372 authorities, seaports, airports, and other local, state, and  
373 federal entities; develop methods of building partnerships with  
374 CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc., to craft mutually  
375 beneficial solutions to achieve the authority's objectives, and  
376 with other private sector business community entities that may  
377 further the authority's mission, and engage the public in

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378 support of regional multimodal transportation improvements. The  
379 ~~master~~ plan shall identify and may prioritize projects that will  
380 accomplish these goals and objectives, including, without  
381 limitation, the creation of express bus and bus rapid transit  
382 services, light rail, commuter rail, and heavy rail transit  
383 services, ferry services, freight services, and any other  
384 multimodal transportation system projects that address critical  
385 transportation needs or concerns, pursuant to subsection (2);  
386 and identify the costs of the proposed projects and revenue  
387 sources that could be used to pay those costs. In developing the  
388 ~~master~~ plan, the authority shall review and coordinate with the  
389 future land use, capital improvements, and traffic circulation  
390 elements of its member local governments' comprehensive plans  
391 and the plans, programs, and schedules of other units of  
392 government having transit or transportation authority within  
393 whose jurisdictions the projects or improvements will be located  
394 to define and resolve potential inconsistencies between such  
395 plans and the authority's developing ~~master~~ plan. ~~By July 1,~~  
396 ~~2008, the authority, working with its member local governments,~~  
397 ~~shall adopt a mandatory conflict resolution process that~~  
398 ~~addresses consistency conflicts between the authority's regional~~  
399 ~~transportation master plan and local government comprehensive~~  
400 ~~plans.~~

401 (b) The authority shall consult with the department to  
402 further the goals and objectives of the Strategic Regional  
403 Transit Needs Assessment completed by the department.

404 (c) Before the adoption of the regional transit development  
405 ~~master~~ plan, the authority shall hold at least one public  
406 meeting in each of the ~~seven~~ counties within the designated

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407 region. At least one public hearing must be held before the  
408 authority's board.

409 (d) After its adoption, the regional transit development  
410 ~~master~~ plan shall be updated every 5 years before July 1.

411 (e) The authority shall present the original regional  
412 transit development ~~master~~ plan and updates to the governing  
413 bodies of the counties within the designated ~~seven-county~~  
414 region, to the TBARTA Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs  
415 Coordinating Committee, and to the legislative delegation  
416 members representing those counties within 90 days after  
417 adoption.

418 (f) The authority shall coordinate plans and projects with  
419 the TBARTA Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs  
420 Coordinating Committee, to the extent practicable, and  
421 participate in the regional M.P.O. planning process to ensure  
422 regional comprehension of the authority's mission, goals, and  
423 objectives.

424 (g) The authority shall provide administrative support and  
425 direction to the TBARTA Metropolitan Planning Organization  
426 Chairs Coordinating Committee as provided in s. 339.175(6)(i).

427 (4) The authority may undertake projects or other  
428 improvements in the regional transit development ~~master~~ plan in  
429 phases as particular projects or segments become feasible, as  
430 determined by the authority. The authority shall coordinate  
431 project planning, development, and implementation with the  
432 applicable local governments. The authority's projects that are  
433 transportation oriented must be consistent to the maximum extent  
434 feasible with the adopted local government comprehensive plans  
435 at the time such projects are funded for construction. Authority

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436 projects that are not transportation oriented and meet the  
437 definition of development pursuant to s. 380.04 must be  
438 consistent with the local comprehensive plans. In carrying out  
439 its purposes and powers, the authority may request funding and  
440 technical assistance from the department and appropriate federal  
441 and local agencies, including, but not limited to, state  
442 infrastructure bank loans.

443 (5) The authority is granted and may exercise all powers  
444 necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or incidental to the  
445 carrying out of the aforesaid purposes, including, but not  
446 limited to, the following rights and powers:

447 (g) To borrow money and to make and issue negotiable notes,  
448 bonds, refunding bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness or  
449 obligations, either in temporary or definitive form, hereinafter  
450 in this chapter sometimes called "revenue bonds" of the  
451 authority, for the purpose of financing all or part of the  
452 mobility improvements within the ~~Tampa Bay~~ region, as well as  
453 the appurtenant facilities, including all approaches, streets,  
454 roads, bridges, and avenues of access authorized by this part,  
455 the bonds to mature not exceeding 40 years after the date of the  
456 issuance thereof, and to secure the payment of such bonds or any  
457 part thereof by a pledge of any or all of its revenues, rates,  
458 fees, rentals, or other charges.

459 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 343.94, Florida  
460 Statutes, is amended to read:

461 343.94 Bond financing authority.—

462 (1) Pursuant to s. 11(f), Art. VII of the State  
463 Constitution, the Legislature approves bond financing by the  
464 Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority for

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465 construction of or improvements to commuter rail systems,  
466 transit systems, ferry systems, highways, bridges, toll  
467 collection facilities, interchanges to the system, and any other  
468 transportation facility appurtenant, necessary, or incidental to  
469 the system. Subject to terms and conditions of applicable  
470 revenue bond resolutions and covenants, such costs may be  
471 financed in whole or in part by revenue bonds issued pursuant to  
472 paragraph (2) (a) or paragraph (2) (b), whether currently issued  
473 or issued in the future or by a combination of such bonds.

474 Section 7. Section 343.947, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
475 read:

476 343.947 Department may be appointed agent of authority for  
477 construction.—The department may be appointed by the authority  
478 as its agent for the purpose of constructing and completing  
479 transportation projects, and improvements and extensions  
480 thereto, in the authority's regional transit development ~~master~~  
481 plan. In such event, the authority shall provide the department  
482 with complete copies of all documents, agreements, resolutions,  
483 contracts, and instruments relating thereto; shall request the  
484 department to do such construction work, including the planning,  
485 surveying, and actual construction of the completion,  
486 extensions, and improvements to the system; and shall transfer  
487 to the credit of an account of the department in the treasury of  
488 the state the necessary funds therefor. The department shall  
489 proceed with such construction and use the funds for such  
490 purpose in the same manner that it is now authorized to use the  
491 funds otherwise provided by law for its use in construction of  
492 commuter rail systems, transit systems, ferry systems, roads,  
493 bridges, and related transportation facilities.

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494 Section 8. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 343.95,  
495 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

496 343.95 Acquisition of lands and property.—

497 (1) For the purposes of this part, the authority may  
498 acquire private or public property and property rights,  
499 including rights of access, air, view, and light, by gift,  
500 devise, purchase, or condemnation by eminent domain proceedings,  
501 as the authority may deem necessary for any purpose of this  
502 part, including, but not limited to, any lands reasonably  
503 necessary for securing applicable permits, areas necessary for  
504 management of access, borrow pits, drainage ditches, water  
505 retention areas, rest areas, replacement access for landowners  
506 whose access is impaired due to the construction of a facility,  
507 and replacement rights-of-way for relocated rail and utility  
508 facilities; for existing, proposed, or anticipated  
509 transportation facilities within the ~~seven-county Tampa Bay~~  
510 region designated ~~identified~~ by the authority; or for the  
511 purposes of screening, relocation, removal, or disposal of  
512 junkyards and scrap metal processing facilities. The authority  
513 may condemn any material and property necessary for such  
514 purposes.

515 (3) When the authority acquires property for a  
516 transportation facility within the designated ~~seven-county Tampa~~  
517 ~~Bay~~ region, the authority is not subject to any liability  
518 imposed by chapter 376 or chapter 403 for preexisting soil or  
519 groundwater contamination due solely to its ownership. This  
520 subsection does not affect the rights or liabilities of any past  
521 or future owners of the acquired property, nor does it affect  
522 the liability of any governmental entity for the results of its

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523 actions which create or exacerbate a pollution source. The  
524 authority and the Department of Environmental Protection may  
525 enter into interagency agreements for the performance, funding,  
526 and reimbursement of the investigative and remedial acts  
527 necessary for property acquired by the authority.

528 Section 9. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 343.975,  
529 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

530 343.975 Complete and additional statutory authority.—

531 (1) The powers conferred by this part are supplemental to  
532 the existing powers of the board and the department. This part  
533 does not repeal any of the provisions of any other law, general,  
534 special, or local, but supplements such other laws in the  
535 exercise of the powers provided in this part and provides a  
536 complete method for the exercise of the powers granted in this  
537 part. The projects planned and constructed by the Tampa Bay Area  
538 Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority shall comply with all  
539 applicable federal, state, and local laws. The extension and  
540 improvement of the system, and the issuance of bonds hereunder  
541 to finance all or part of the cost thereof, may be accomplished  
542 upon compliance with the provisions of this part without regard  
543 to or necessity for compliance with the provisions, limitations,  
544 or restrictions contained in any other general, special, or  
545 local law, including, but not limited to, s. 215.821. An  
546 approval of any bonds issued under this part by the qualified  
547 electors or qualified electors who are freeholders in the state  
548 or in any other political subdivision of the state is not  
549 required for the issuance of such bonds pursuant to this part.

550 (3) This part does not preclude the department from  
551 acquiring, holding, constructing, improving, maintaining,

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552 operating, or owning tolled or nontolled facilities funded and  
553 constructed from nonauthority sources that are part of the State  
554 Highway System within the geographical boundaries of the Tampa  
555 Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority.

556 Section 10. Section 343.976, Florida Statutes, is amended  
557 to read:

558 343.976 Effect on local government action.—This act does  
559 not prohibit any local government that is a member of the Tampa  
560 Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority from  
561 participating in or creating any other transit authority,  
562 regional transportation authority, or expressway authority.

563 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.