

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2015 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Community Affairs

HB 257 — Freight Logistics Zones

by Rep. Ray and others (SB 956 by Senator Simpson)

In 2012, the Legislature emphasized the importance of freight mobility to the state's economic growth by directing the Florida Department of Transportation to develop a Freight Mobility and Trade Plan, establish the Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Program, and allow a planned facility to be designated as part of the Strategic Intermodal System upon the request of the facility. The Florida Department of Transportation continues to implement a freight planning process that maximizes the use of the existing government and privately-owned transportation resources.

The bill authorizes a county or counties to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdictions as a freight logistic zone. The bill defines a "freight logistics zone" as a grouping of activities and infrastructure associated with freight transportation and related services within a defined area around an intermodal logistics center and requires that the designation be accompanied by a strategic plan.

Projects within a freight logistics zone may be eligible for priority in state funding and incentive programs. Eligibility for priority status will be based on an evaluation of the project.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2015.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 118-0