Florida House of Representatives - 2001 HB 489

By Representatives Johnson, Russell, Mayfield, Berfield, Allen, Bense and Hart

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to high-speed rail; creating 3 the High-Speed Rail Study Commission; providing for membership and appointment; providing for 4 5 staff; providing for duties of the commission; providing for dissolution of the commission 6 7 upon submission of a required report; directing 8 the Department of Transportation to begin 9 collecting and organizing existing data on 10 high-speed rail systems; providing an 11 appropriation; providing an effective date. 12 13 WHEREAS, the voters on November 7, 2000, approved a 14 constitutional amendment directing the Legislature, the Cabinet, and the Governor to proceed with development of a 15 16 high-speed rail system capable of speeds in excess of 120 17 miles per hour, and 18 WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment called for the 19 high-speed rail system to be developed by the state and a 20 private entity pursuant to state approval and authorization, 21 and 22 WHEREAS, construction of the system must begin on or before November 1, 2003, and 23 24 WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment left many 25 technical and financial questions unanswered, NOW, THEREFORE, 26 27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 28 29 Section 1. High-Speed Rail Study Commission created .--30 31

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(1) The High-Speed Rail Study Commission is created 1 2 within the Legislature. The commission shall consist of 10 3 members to be appointed as follows: 4 (a) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall 5 appoint two members from among the members of the House of 6 Representatives. 7 (b) The President of the Senate shall appoint two 8 members from among the members of the Senate. 9 (c) The Governor shall appoint five members in the 10 following manner: one member shall be a developer; one member 11 shall be an expert in the field of transportation; one member 12 shall be an expert in the field of bond finance; and two 13 members shall represent the business community. 14 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation 15 shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the 16 commission. 17 18 The commission shall elect a chair and a vice chair from its 19 membership at its first meeting. 20 (2) The commission shall be appointed no later than June 1, 2001, and its first meeting shall be no later than 21 22 June 15, 2001. The commission shall meet periodically at the 23 request of the chair. 24 (3) Members of the commission shall serve without 25 compensation, except for per diem and reimbursement for travel 26 expenses as provided by s. 112.061, Florida Statutes. 27 (4) A vacancy in the commission shall be filled within 28 30 days after its occurrence in the same manner as the 29 original appointment. 30 (5)(a) The Department of Transportation shall serve as primary staff to the commission, providing technical and 31 2

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administrative assistance and ensuring that commission 1 2 meetings are electronically recorded. Such recordings shall be preserved pursuant to chapters 119 and 257, Florida Statutes. 3 4 (b) The Florida Transportation Commission, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of 5 6 Environmental Protection shall, at the commission's request, 7 provide technical, scientific, or other assistance. 8 (c) The commission may request that the Office of 9 Legislative Services provide administrative support to assist the commission in its efforts. 10 11 (6) The commission shall study and make 12 recommendations on: 13 (a) The total cost of the high-speed rail project, 14 which includes the costs of rights-of-way and improvements; 15 the rolling stock and other equipment necessary to build and 16 operate a high-speed rail system; system design, engineering, 17 and construction; annual operation and maintenance; and all other associated expenses. Such costs should be based, where 18 19 applicable and appropriate, on demonstrated expenditures for 20 similar projects. (b) The feasibility of technology to be used for the 21 22 development of the high-speed rail. 23 (c) The route to be used for phase 1 of the high-speed 24 rail, including the names of at least two cities between which 25 the route would be constructed. 26 (d) Funding sources, including federal and local 27 funds, private investment, revenue generated by ridership, 28 cargo, or other users, franchise fees and licenses, lease 29 fees, and other reasonably potential sources of funds. 30 31

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The format and types of information that must be 1 (e) 2 included in a financial or business plan for the high-speed 3 rail system. (f) Any other issues the commission deems relevant to 4 5 the development of a high-speed rail system. (7) The commission shall prepare a report of its 6 7 findings and recommendations and submit the report to the 8 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the 9 President of the Senate on or before January 1, 2002. The report also may include suggested legislation. The commission 10 11 is dissolved at the time it submits its report. 12 Section 2. The Department of Transportation is 13 directed to begin, as soon as possible, collecting and organizing existing research, studies, and reports on 14 15 high-speed rail systems, in preparation for the commission's 16 first meeting. 17 Section 3. There is appropriated from the State 18 Transportation Trust Fund to the High-Speed Rail Study Commission the sum of \$400,000 for the purpose of conducting 19 the study described in section 1. 20 21 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 22 law. 23 24 25 HOUSE SUMMARY 26 Creates a High-Speed Rail Study Commission within the Legislature to make a report and recommendations with respect to the development of high-speed rail in Florida. See bill for details. 27 28 29 30 31 Δ

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