



CHAMBER ACTION

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The Committee on Local Government & Veterans' Affairs recommends the following:

**Committee Substitute**

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to rural economic development; requiring the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection, water management districts, Enterprise Florida, and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and other described agencies to cooperate to promote development in described small counties; amending s. 163.3177, F.S.; revising required elements of a comprehensive plan; revising requirements in described areas for the traffic circulation element in the comprehensive plan; requiring described plans in said element; providing for a comprehensive interchange sector plan; providing for multigovernment jurisdictions; providing for content and considerations; requiring coordination with described public and private agencies; providing for a comprehensive access management plan; requiring conformity to the State Highway System Access Management Act; requiring approval by the Department of



29 Transportation; requiring the Department of Community  
 30 Affairs to coordinate planning activities of applicable  
 31 parties under certain circumstances; providing for a  
 32 coordinated plan; amending s. 288.0655, F.S.; revising  
 33 provisions for award of Rural Infrastructure Fund grants;  
 34 providing for specified in-kind resources matching certain  
 35 funds; amending s. 337.273, F.S.; providing legislative  
 36 findings relating to highway interchanges; amending s.  
 37 403.973, F.S.; revising provisions for comprehensive plan  
 38 amendments for described areas; requiring specified  
 39 entities to develop a master plan; providing purpose of  
 40 the plan; providing for assistance preparing applications  
 41 for certain permits; providing for waiver or reduction of  
 42 application fees for certain permits; creating s. 479.262,  
 43 F.S.; authorizing the Department of Transportation to  
 44 establish a tourist-oriented directional sign program in  
 45 described counties; requiring conformance with certain  
 46 regulations; providing purpose; authorizing the department  
 47 to provide described services; authorizing the department  
 48 to contract for said services; providing for charge of fee  
 49 to participating businesses; authorizing the department to  
 50 adopt rules; providing an effective date.

51  
 52 WHEREAS, many small rural counties in Florida do not have  
 53 the resources to compete for growth that will provide jobs and  
 54 increase the tax base, and



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55 WHEREAS, many of these counties are assessing the maximum  
56 millage allowed in order to meet the basic needs of our  
57 communities and schools, and

58 WHEREAS, opportunities to increase revenues to provide  
59 essential services, such as user fees and special assessments,  
60 are currently being utilized, and

61 WHEREAS, these counties are rural and have agricultural-  
62 based economies and tax bases with average incomes below the  
63 state averages, and

64 WHEREAS, interstate interchanges are the most practical  
65 areas in these economically disadvantaged counties to  
66 concentrate efforts to enhance growth for jobs and tax bases,  
67 and

68 WHEREAS, the State of Florida continues to be an effective  
69 resource and leader in providing assistance and utilizing  
70 creative ways to support and enhance economic development in all  
71 areas of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

72

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

74

75 Section 1. The Department of Transportation; the  
76 Department of Environmental Protection; water management  
77 districts; Enterprise Florida, Inc.; the Office of Tourism,  
78 Trade, and Economic Development; and any other agency with  
79 regulatory authority shall cooperate to promote economic  
80 development in counties recognized as small counties with an  
81 emphasis on the development of interstate exchanges.



82 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section  
83 163.3177, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (m) and  
84 (n) are added to subsection (10) of said section, to read:

85 163.3177 Required and optional elements of comprehensive  
86 plan; studies and surveys.--

87 (6) In addition to the requirements of subsections (1)-  
88 (5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following  
89 elements:

90 (b)1. A traffic circulation element consisting of the  
91 types, locations, and extent of existing and proposed major  
92 thoroughfares and transportation routes, including bicycle and  
93 pedestrian ways. Transportation corridors, as defined in s.  
94 334.03, may be designated in the traffic circulation element  
95 pursuant to s. 337.273. If the transportation corridors are  
96 designated, the local government may adopt a transportation  
97 corridor management ordinance.

98 2. For future highway interchanges on the Florida  
99 Intrastate Highway System, or where land use changes are  
100 proposed within 1/2 mile of an existing such interchange, the  
101 traffic circulation element shall include a comprehensive  
102 interchange sector plan. In instances where the sector plan  
103 extends into more than one local government jurisdiction, the  
104 local government with the largest amount of land within the  
105 sector shall be responsible for the coordination of the sector  
106 plan. The sector plan shall prescribe the type and intensity of  
107 the land use and patterns. The plan shall also include a  
108 comprehensive access management plan showing all driveway  
109 locations, median openings, traffic signals, and internal



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110 traffic circulation. Any such comprehensive access management  
111 plan shall, at a minimum, conform to the State Highway System  
112 Access Management Act and any rules adopted thereunder, and  
113 shall be subject to approval by the Department of  
114 Transportation. Nothing herein is intended to affect Department  
115 of Transportation jurisdiction over the State Highway System. In  
116 rural communities, the sector plan shall also consider job  
117 creation, capital investment, and economic development that will  
118 strengthen and diversify the community's economy; projected  
119 population growth with and in proximity to the sectors;  
120 utilities required to support the proposed land uses; stormwater  
121 management and treatment facilities; and other infrastructure  
122 needs specific to the interchange sector.

123 (10) The Legislature recognizes the importance and  
124 significance of chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, the  
125 Minimum Criteria for Review of Local Government Comprehensive  
126 Plans and Determination of Compliance of the Department of  
127 Community Affairs that will be used to determine compliance of  
128 local comprehensive plans. The Legislature reserved unto itself  
129 the right to review chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code,  
130 and to reject, modify, or take no action relative to this rule.  
131 Therefore, pursuant to subsection (9), the Legislature hereby  
132 has reviewed chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, and  
133 expresses the following legislative intent:

134 (m) The Department of Transportation shall consider  
135 compatibility of highway access to and from land uses within  
136 interchange sector plans in coordination with the state land  
137 planning agency and other government agencies, as appropriate.



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138 In rural areas, coordination shall be made with public or  
139 private agencies promoting economic development and job  
140 creation.

141 (n) The Department of Community Affairs shall, at the  
142 request of the board of county commissioners or a local  
143 municipality with a population of less than 75,000, coordinate  
144 planning activities of all applicable state, regional, and local  
145 parties, including, but not limited to, the Department of  
146 Transportation; the Department of Environmental Protection; the  
147 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; the  
148 appropriate regional planning council and water management  
149 district; the county or local municipality; and the local  
150 landowners in the development of the comprehensive interchange  
151 sector plan. The parties shall prepare a coordinated plan with  
152 local landowners to encourage well-planned, environmentally  
153 sensitive development within those areas. The coordinated plan  
154 shall consider all existing permitting requirements and be  
155 permissible under existing rules and statutes applicable to such  
156 developments.

157 Section 3. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
158 288.0655, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

159 288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.--

160 (2)

161 (e) To enable local governments to access the resources  
162 available pursuant to s. 403.973(18), the office may award  
163 grants for surveys, feasibility studies, and other activities  
164 related to the identification and preclearance review of land  
165 which is suitable for preclearance review and plan development



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166 as provided in s. 403.973(18). Authorized grants under this  
167 paragraph shall not exceed \$75,000 each, except in the case of a  
168 project in a rural area of critical economic concern, in which  
169 case the grant shall not exceed \$300,000. Any funds awarded  
170 under this paragraph must be matched at a level of at least 50  
171 percent with local governmental or private funds and in-kind  
172 resources provided by agencies participating in the memorandum  
173 of agreement authorized in s. 403.973, except that any funds  
174 awarded for a project in a rural area of critical economic  
175 concern must be matched at a level of at least 33 percent with  
176 local governmental or private funds and in-kind resources  
177 provided by agencies participating in the memorandum of  
178 agreement authorized in s. 403.973. In evaluating applications  
179 under this paragraph, the office shall consider the extent to  
180 which the application seeks to minimize administrative and  
181 consultant expenses. The office may also consider the number of  
182 applications for grants authorized by paragraphs (b) and (c)  
183 when determining the amount to be awarded under this paragraph.

184 Section 4. Subsection (7) is added to section 337.273,  
185 Florida Statutes, to read:

186 337.273 Transportation corridors.--

187 (7) It is recognized by the Legislature that highway  
188 interchanges on the Florida Intrastate Highway System are  
189 critical elements of the State Highway System and require  
190 heightened coordinated management of transportation facilities  
191 and land use. Areas around the Florida Intrastate Highway System  
192 interchanges provide growth and economic development  
193 opportunities which may be impeded without specific coordination



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194 among state and local governments and the private sector in  
195 order to provide and preserve safe and efficient mobility and  
196 access to these critical areas.

197 Section 5. Subsection (18) of section 403.973, Florida  
198 Statutes, is amended to read:

199 403.973 Expedited permitting; comprehensive plan  
200 amendments.--

201 (18) The office, working with the Rural Economic  
202 Development Initiative and the agencies participating in the  
203 memoranda of agreement, shall provide technical assistance in  
204 preparing permit applications and local comprehensive plan  
205 amendments for counties having a population of less than 75,000  
206 residents, or counties having fewer than 100,000 residents which  
207 are contiguous to counties having fewer than 75,000 residents.  
208 Additional assistance may include, but not be limited to,  
209 guidance in land development regulations and permitting  
210 processes, working cooperatively with state, regional, and local  
211 entities to identify areas within these counties which may be  
212 suitable or adaptable for preclearance review of specified types  
213 of land uses and other activities requiring permits. When such  
214 areas have been identified, the agencies participating in the  
215 memoranda of agreement shall work with the office, the Rural  
216 Economic Development Initiative, and the local governments to  
217 create a master plan for the area that will serve as an  
218 inducement for business location and job creation, the nature  
219 and type of which shall be specified in the master plan. The  
220 agencies shall also assist in the preparation of applications  
221 for such permits as may be required, and process the





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222 applications for approval. The agencies may waive or  
223 substantially reduce all application fees for permits required  
224 for the implementation of these master plans.

225 Section 6. Section 479.262, Florida Statutes, is created  
226 to read:

227 479.262 Tourist-oriented directional sign program.--

228 (1) For counties with a population of 75,000 or less, the  
229 department may establish a tourist-oriented directional sign  
230 program in accordance with federal regulations for highways  
231 without limited access on the National Highway System and the  
232 State Highway System to encourage and assist in rural economic  
233 development.

234 (2) The department shall provide the services in the most  
235 efficient and cost-effective manner through department staff or  
236 by contracting for some or all of the services. The department  
237 is authorized to contract pursuant to s. 287.057 for the  
238 provision of services related to the tourist-oriented  
239 directional sign program.

240 (3) Fees for businesses that participate in the program  
241 shall be established in an amount sufficient to offset the total  
242 cost to the department for the program.

243 (4) The department shall adopt rules to establish  
244 requirements for the location of signs, qualification for  
245 participating businesses, and administration of the program.

246 (5) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to create a  
247 proprietary or compensable interest in any tourist-oriented  
248 directional sign or location for any participating business. The  
249 department may terminate participation or change locations of



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250 | sign sites as it determines necessary for construction or  
251 | improvement of transportation facilities or for improved traffic  
252 | control or safety.

253 |       Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.