

By Senator Garcia

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the transportation disadvantaged;  
3       amending s. 427.011, F.S.; redefining the term  
4       "nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services";  
5       defining the term "designated service area"; amending  
6       s. 427.0157, F.S.; requiring each coordinating board  
7       to evaluate multicounty or regional transportation  
8       opportunities with specific consideration given to  
9       nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services  
10      that include services between specific origins and  
11      destinations selected by the individual user which may  
12      require travel across designated service areas to  
13      enhance access to health care, shopping, education,  
14      employment, public services, and other life-sustaining  
15      activities; amending s. 427.0159, F.S.; authorizing  
16      certain funds to be used to purchase services between  
17      specific origins and destinations selected by  
18      individual users that may require travel across  
19      designated service areas to enhance access to health  
20      care, shopping, education, employment, public  
21      services, and other life-sustaining activities;  
22      prohibiting a cash or in-kind match from being  
23      required if services between specific origins and  
24      destinations selected by a disadvantaged person  
25      require such travel; providing an effective date.

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

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29       Section 1. Subsection (12) of section 427.011, Florida

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30 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (13) is added to that  
31 section, to read:

32 427.011 Definitions.—For the purposes of ss. 427.011-  
33 427.017:

34 (12) "Nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services"  
35 means transportation disadvantaged services that are not  
36 sponsored or subsidized by any funding source other than the  
37 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. These services may  
38 include services between specific origins and destinations  
39 selected by the individual user which may require travel across  
40 designated service areas to enhance access to health care,  
41 shopping, education, employment, public services, and other  
42 life-sustaining activities.

43 (13) "Designated service area" means a geographical area  
44 recommended by a designated official planning agency, subject to  
45 approval by the commission, within which the coordinated  
46 transportation services will be provided to the transportation  
47 disadvantaged.

48 Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 427.0157, Florida  
49 Statutes, is amended to read:

50 427.0157 Coordinating boards; powers and duties.—The  
51 purpose of each coordinating board is to develop local service  
52 needs and to provide information, advice, and direction to the  
53 community transportation coordinators on the coordination of  
54 services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The  
55 commission shall, by rule, establish the membership of  
56 coordinating boards. The members of each board shall be  
57 appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or  
58 designated official planning agency. The appointing authority

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59 shall provide each board with sufficient staff support and  
60 resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities  
61 under this section. Each board shall meet at least quarterly and  
62 shall:

63 (6) Evaluate multicounty or regional transportation  
64 opportunities with specific consideration given to the  
65 nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services under  
66 subsection (4) which include services between specific origins  
67 and destinations selected by the individual user which may  
68 require travel across designated service areas to enhance access  
69 to health care, shopping, education, employment, public  
70 services, and other life-sustaining activities.

71 Section 3. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 427.0159,  
72 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

73 427.0159 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.—

74 (1) There is established in the State Treasury the  
75 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund to be administered by  
76 the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. All fees  
77 collected for the transportation disadvantaged program under s.  
78 320.03(9) shall be deposited in the trust fund. These funds may  
79 be used to purchase services between specific origins and  
80 destinations selected by individual users which may require  
81 travel across designated service areas to enhance access to  
82 health care, shopping, education, employment, public services,  
83 and other life-sustaining activities.

84 (3) Funds deposited in the trust fund may be used by the  
85 commission to subsidize a portion of a transportation  
86 disadvantaged person's transportation costs which is not  
87 sponsored by an agency, only if a cash or in-kind match is

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88 required. A cash or in-kind match is not required if services  
89 between specific origins and destinations selected by the  
90 disadvantaged person require travel across designated service  
91 areas to enhance access to health care, shopping, education,  
92 employment, public services, and other life-sustaining  
93 activities. Funds for nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged  
94 services shall be distributed based upon the need of the  
95 recipient and according to criteria developed by the Commission  
96 for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

97 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.