By Senator Simpson

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

Section 1. Section 377.813, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

377.813 Electric and hybrid fleet vehicle rebate program.—
(1) CREATION AND PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—There is created within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services an electric and hybrid fleet vehicle rebate program. The purpose of this program is to help reduce transportation costs in this state and to encourage freight mobility investments that contribute to the economic growth of this state.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the term:
(a) “Conversion cost” means the excess cost associated with converting from a diesel- or gasoline-powered motor vehicle to an electric or hybrid vehicle.

(b) “Department” means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(c) “Electric vehicle” means a motor vehicle that is powered by an electric motor that draws current from rechargeable storage batteries, fuel cells, or other sources of electrical current.

(d) “Eligible costs” means the conversion cost or the incremental cost incurred by an applicant in connection with an investment in the conversion, purchase, or lease of at least 5 years of an electric or hybrid fleet vehicle placed into service on or after July 1, 2019. The term does not include costs for project development, fueling stations, or other fueling infrastructure.

(e) “Fleet vehicles” means three or more motor vehicles registered in this state and used for commercial business or governmental purposes.

(f) “Hybrid vehicle” has the same meaning as in s. 316.0741.

(g) “Incremental costs” means the excess costs associated with the purchase or lease of an electric or hybrid vehicle as compared to an equivalent diesel- or gasoline-powered motor vehicle.

(3) ELECTRIC OR HYBRID FLEET VEHICLE REBATE.—The department shall award rebates for eligible costs as defined in this section. Forty percent of the annual allocation must be reserved for governmental applicants, with the remaining funds allocated...
for commercial applicants. A rebate may not exceed 50 percent of the eligible costs of an electric or hybrid fleet vehicle placed into service on or after July 1, 2019. An applicant is eligible to receive a maximum rebate of $25,000 per vehicle, up to a total of $250,000 per fiscal year. Between June 1 and June 30 of each fiscal year, the department may receive additional applications from applicants who have met the program maximum of $250,000 per fiscal year. Those applicants may apply for additional funds for vehicles that have not received a rebate, for a maximum rebate of $25,000 per vehicle, up to a total of $250,000. Governmental applicants have preference, and any other remaining funds may be used by commercial applicants. Rebates must be allocated to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis, as determined by the date the department receives the application, until all appropriated funds for the fiscal year are expended.

(4) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

(a) An applicant seeking to obtain a rebate must submit an application to the department by a specified date each year, as established by department rule. The application must require a complete description of all eligible costs, proof of purchase of or lease of the vehicle for which the applicant is seeking a rebate, a copy of the vehicle registration certificate, a description of the total rebate the applicant seeks, and any other information the department deems necessary. The application form adopted by department rule must include an affidavit from the applicant certifying that all information contained in the application is true and correct.

(b) The department shall determine each applicant’s rebate...
eligibility in accordance with the requirements of this section and department rule. The total amount of rebates allocated to applicants in each fiscal year may not exceed the amount of funds appropriated for the program in a fiscal year. The department must allocate rebates to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis, as determined by the date each application is received, until all appropriated funds for the fiscal year are expended or the program ends, whichever comes first. Incomplete applications submitted to the department will not be accepted and do not secure a place in the first-come, first-served application process.

(5) RULES.—The department shall adopt rules by December 31, 2019, to implement and administer this section including rules relating to the forms required to claim a rebate under this section, the required documentation and basis for establishing eligibility for a rebate, the procedures and guidelines for claiming a rebate, and the collection of economic impact data from applicants.

(6) PUBLICATION.—The department shall determine and publish on its website, on an ongoing basis, the amount of available funding for rebates remaining in each fiscal year.

(7) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—By October 1, 2020, and each year thereafter in which the program is funded, the department shall provide an annual assessment of the use of the rebate program during the previous fiscal year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. The assessment must include, at a minimum, all of the following information:

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
(a) The name of each applicant awarded a rebate under this section.

(b) The amount of the rebates awarded to each applicant.

(c) The type and description of each eligible vehicle for which each applicant applied for a rebate.

(d) The aggregate amount of funding awarded for all applicants claiming rebates under this section.

Section 2. Beginning in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and each year thereafter through the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of $6 million in recurring funds is appropriated in each fiscal year from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to fund the natural gas fuel fleet vehicle rebate program created pursuant to s. 377.810, Florida Statutes.

Section 3. Beginning in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and each year thereafter through the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of $3 million in recurring funds is appropriated in each fiscal year from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to fund the electric and hybrid fleet vehicle rebate program pursuant to s. 377.813, Florida Statutes, as created by this act.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.