

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senators Burgess and Collins

596-02747-23

20231532c1

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to regional transportation planning;  
3 providing legislative findings and intent; requiring  
4 the Department of Transportation, or its consultant,  
5 to conduct a study regarding the potential dissolution  
6 or transfer of the governance, staff, operations,  
7 funding, and facilities of the Hillsborough Area  
8 Regional Transit Authority; specifying requirements of  
9 the study; requiring the department to submit a report  
10 to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date;  
11 providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that, given this  
16 state's rapid population growth, coordination of transportation  
17 planning, particularly regional transportation planning, is  
18 critical to the safe and efficient management, operation, and  
19 development of public transit systems. The Legislature questions  
20 whether the dissolution of the Hillsborough Area Regional  
21 Transit Authority (HART) would result in operational  
22 efficiencies and reduced administrative costs and further a  
23 regional approach to transit. It is the intent of the  
24 Legislature to explore the dissolution or transfer of the  
25 governance, staff, operations, funding, and facilities of HART  
26 with the goal of enhancing regional transit service and  
27 connectivity in the Tampa Bay area.

28 (2) The Department of Transportation, or its consultant,  
29 shall conduct a study of the potential dissolution of HART. The

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30 study must address all aspects of the winding down of the  
31 affairs of HART, including the following:

32 (a) The dissolution of the governance structure, including  
33 governing board membership, powers, and responsibilities.

34 (b) The drawdown or transfer of staff.

35 (c) The transfer of financial assets and obligations.

36 (d) The transfer of responsibilities and administered  
37 programs.

38 (e) The transfer of facilities and operations.

39 (f) Impacts to federal or state grants or funds.

40 (g) Any legal or financial impediments to or limitations on  
41 such dissolution.

42 (h) The advantages and disadvantages of dissolution or  
43 transfer.

44 (i) Any other matters deemed necessary or appropriate by  
45 the department.

46 (3) By January 1, 2024, the department shall submit a  
47 report detailing the results of the study to the Governor, the  
48 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
49 Representatives.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.