

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to transportation; amending s. 20.23,  
3       F.S.; authorizing the Secretary of Transportation to  
4       appoint certain officers; providing that such officers  
5       maintain their Senior Management Service status;  
6       providing legislative findings; creating and providing  
7       membership of the Florida Transportation Research  
8       Institute; requiring the Department of Transportation  
9       to select an administrative lead for the Institute and  
10      periodically assess his or her performance;  
11      authorizing the Institute to award certain grants and  
12      expend certain funds; providing for the appointment of  
13      an executive director and establishing an executive  
14      committee; requiring the Institute to provide  
15      specified annual reports; requiring at least a  
16      specified number of members of the Florida  
17      Transportation Commission to represent or have  
18      expertise in certain industries; authorizing the  
19      commission to monitor certain transit entities;  
20      requiring members of the commission to follow  
21      specified standards of conduct; revising the  
22      department's areas of program responsibility; removing  
23      obsolete provisions; amending s. 311.07, F.S.; adding  
24      projects eligible for funding under the Florida  
25      Seaport Transportation and Economic Development

26        Program; amending s. 311.09, F.S.; revising the  
27        purpose of the Florida Seaport Transportation and  
28        Economic Development Council; revising the  
29        recommendations included in the Florida Seaport  
30        Mission Plan; requiring council members to submit  
31        specified reports; amending s. 311.10, F.S.; providing  
32        conditions for specified seaports to receive certain  
33        project grants and state funds; requiring express  
34        approval from the Legislature to use certain land,  
35        facilities, or infrastructure for an alternative  
36        purpose; amending s. 316.003, F.S.; revising the  
37        definition of the term "special mobile equipment";  
38        amending s. 316.0745, F.S.; requiring that certain  
39        state funds be withheld under certain circumstances;  
40        amending s. 316.550, F.S.; authorizing the department  
41        to issue a mobile crane special blanket permit for  
42        certain purposes; amending s. 330.27, F.S.; revising  
43        and providing definitions; amending s. 330.30, F.S.;  
44        requiring a private airport of public interest to  
45        obtain a specified certificate; providing procedures  
46        for the issuance of, conditions for the renewal of,  
47        and the expiration periods of such certificates;  
48        grandfathering in certain airports, but requiring such  
49        airports to obtain a certificate by a specified date;  
50        amending s. 331.371, F.S.; authorizing the department,

51        in consultation with other entities, to fund certain  
52        projects; requiring specified departments to  
53        coordinate in funding certain projects to optimize the  
54        use of available funds; amending s. 332.003, F.S.;  
55        revising a short title; amending s. 332.005, F.S.;  
56        requiring an airport to provide the department, at no  
57        cost, with the opportunity to use airport property  
58        upon the declaration of a state of emergency for a  
59        specified time period; requiring a certain written  
60        agreement for the department to use airport property  
61        after such time period; amending s. 332.006, F.S.;  
62        revising duties of the department; amending s.  
63        332.007, F.S.; requiring commercial service airports  
64        to establish and maintain a comprehensive airport  
65        infrastructure program for a specified purpose;  
66        defining the term "airport infrastructure"; requiring  
67        each commercial service airport to provide an annual  
68        specified certification to the department beginning on  
69        a specified date; requiring documents and records  
70        relating to the comprehensive airport infrastructure  
71        program to be open to inspection by the department and  
72        maintained for a specified timeframe; providing  
73        program requirements; requiring the department to  
74        provide priority funding for certain projects and  
75        technology; authorizing the department to fund certain

76 projects at certain postsecondary education  
77 institutions; authorizing the department to fund, and  
78 match funds provided by the Department of Commerce  
79 for, programs that help transition certain military  
80 personnel to the aviation industry; authorizing the  
81 Department of Transportation to fund strategic airport  
82 investment projects to maximize tourism opportunities;  
83 amending s. 332.0075, F.S.; revising definitions;  
84 requiring certain information to remain on a governing  
85 body's website for 5 years; requiring certain  
86 information to be updated quarterly rather than  
87 annually; revising the information that certain  
88 governing bodies must submit to the department;  
89 providing requirements for commercial service  
90 airports; creating s. 332.15, F.S.; providing  
91 requirements for the department relating to advanced  
92 air mobility; amending s. 334.044, F.S.; revising and  
93 providing powers and duties of the department;  
94 amending s. 334.045, F.S.; conforming a provision to  
95 changes made by the act; creating s. 334.067, F.S.;  
96 requiring the department to create a statewide mapping  
97 pilot program for a certain purpose, subject to  
98 appropriation; providing requirements for the pilot  
99 program and the department; requiring a specified  
100 amount of statewide mapping data to be collected

101        annually; requiring certain state agencies to  
102        participate in the pilot program; authorizing the  
103        department to enter into cooperative agreements with  
104        certain entities for a certain purpose; amending s.  
105        334.27, F.S.; authorizing certain parking authorities  
106        to conduct business, engage in certain activities, and  
107        provide services to certain counties, municipalities,  
108        and political subdivisions; authorizing such parking  
109        authorities to engage in certain activities upon  
110        entering into an interlocal agreement with certain  
111        governing bodies; creating s. 334.62, F.S.; providing  
112        legislative findings; creating the Florida  
113        Transportation Academy for a specified purpose;  
114        authorizing the department to work with certain  
115        entities to support, promote, and sustain certain  
116        workforce development efforts; authorizing the  
117        department to coordinate with specified entities for  
118        certain purposes; amending s. 335.182, F.S.; revising  
119        the definition of the term "significant change";  
120        defining the term "modification of a connection";  
121        amending s. 335.187, F.S.; revising the conditions  
122        under which the department may modify or revoke a  
123        permit; amending s. 337.027, F.S.; revising the  
124        definition of the term "small business"; requiring  
125        certain notice; amending ss. 337.11 and 337.251, F.S.;

conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
amending s. 337.18, F.S.; authorizing the department  
to require the amount of certain bonds to be less than  
a certain price; amending s. 337.401, F.S.;  
prohibiting counties and municipalities from adopting  
certain rules and regulations relating to permits for  
the installation of a public sewer transmission line  
under certain circumstances; amending s. 337.406,  
F.S.; providing an exception to the prohibition of  
camping on any portion of the right-of-way of the  
State Highway System; amending s. 338.227, F.S.;  
conforming a provision to changes made by the act;  
providing applicability; amending s. 339.2821, F.S.;  
conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
amending s. 339.651, F.S.; authorizing, rather than  
requiring, the department to make certain funds  
available each year for certain projects; removing a  
scheduled repeal; amending s. 341.051, F.S.; requiring  
the department to reallocate certain funds under  
certain circumstances; amending s. 348.754, F.S.;  
conforming a provision to changes made by the act;  
amending s. 349.03, F.S.; providing appointment  
procedures for the governing body of the Jacksonville  
Transportation Authority; providing requirements for  
the authority; amending s. 479.106, F.S.; revising

requirements and providing certain conditions for the issuance of a permit for certain new signs on public rights-of-way; repealing ss. 316.0741, 331.351, 337.125, 337.135, 337.139, 339.0805, and 339.287, F.S., relating to high-occupancy-vehicle lanes; participation by women, minorities, and socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises; notice requirements for socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises; penalties for false representation of socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises; awarding contracts to disadvantaged business enterprises; funds to be expended with certified disadvantaged business enterprises, the construction management development program, and the bond guarantee program; and infrastructure plan development for electric vehicle charging stations, respectively; amending ss. 110.205, 322.27, 365.172, 379.2293, 493.6101, and 493.6403, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

**Section 1. Subsections (2) through (6) of section 20.23, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (7),**

176 **respectively, paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a),**  
177 **(b), and (g) of present subsection (2), and paragraph (b) of**  
178 **present subsection (3) are amended, and a new subsection (2) is**  
179 **added to that section, to read:**

180       20.23 Department of Transportation.—There is created a  
181 Department of Transportation which shall be a decentralized  
182 agency.

183       (1)

184       (d) The secretary may appoint up to three assistant  
185 secretaries who shall serve as the Chief Operations Officer,  
186 Chief Finance and Administration Officer, and Chief Strategic  
187 Development Officer; be directly responsible to the secretary;  
188 and ~~who shall~~ perform such duties as are assigned by the  
189 secretary. The secretary may also appoint an Executive Director  
190 of Transportation Technology. These assistant secretaries and  
191 the Executive Director of Transportation Technology shall  
192 maintain their Senior Management Service status and are exempt  
193 from career service under s. 110.205(2). The secretary shall  
194 designate to an assistant secretary the duties related to  
195 enhancing economic prosperity, including, but not limited to,  
196 the responsibility of liaison with the head of economic  
197 development in the Executive Office of the Governor. Such  
198 assistant secretary shall be directly responsible for providing  
199 the Executive Office of the Governor with investment  
200 opportunities and transportation projects that expand the

201 state's role as a global hub for trade and investment and  
202 enhance the supply chain system in the state to process,  
203 assemble, and ship goods to markets throughout the eastern  
204 United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. The  
205 secretary may delegate to any assistant secretary the authority  
206 to act in the absence of the secretary.

207 (2) The Legislature finds that the transportation industry  
208 is critical to the economic future of this state and that the  
209 competitiveness of the industry in this state depends upon the  
210 development and maintenance of a qualified workforce and  
211 cutting-edge research and innovation. The Legislature further  
212 finds that the transportation industry in this state has varied  
213 and complex workforce needs ranging from technical and  
214 mechanical training to continuing education opportunities for  
215 workers with advanced degrees and certifications. The timely  
216 need also exists for coordinated research and innovation efforts  
217 to promote emerging technologies and innovative construction  
218 methods and tools and to address alternative funding mechanisms.

219 (a) The Florida Transportation Research Institute (the  
220 Institute) is created as a consortium of higher education  
221 professionals to drive cutting-edge research, innovation,  
222 transformational technologies, and breakthrough solutions and to  
223 support workforce development efforts that contribute to this  
224 state's transportation system.

225 (b) The mission of the Institute is to advance Florida's

226 transportation infrastructure and systems through research,  
227 education, and engagement for a safer, more efficient,  
228 resilient, and innovative movement of people and goods  
229 throughout this state.

230 (c) The Institute shall report to the department and be  
231 composed of members from the University of Florida, Indian River  
232 State College, the University of Central Florida, the University  
233 of South Florida, and Florida International University.

234 (d) The department shall select a representative from one  
235 of the entities referenced in paragraph (c) to serve as the  
236 administrative lead for the Institute. The department shall  
237 assess the performance of the administrative lead periodically  
238 to ensure accountability and assess the attainment of  
239 performance expectations.

240 (e) The Institute may award grants in alignment with its  
241 mission of furthering research and innovation and supporting  
242 workforce development in this state to support the needs of the  
243 transportation industry. Such grants may be directed to member  
244 and nonmember institutions that have a proven expertise relevant  
245 to the grant, including not-for-profit organizations and  
246 institutions of higher education.

247 (f) The Institute may expend state funds as allocated by  
248 the department from the State Transportation Trust Fund. Annual  
249 funding may be expended for the Institute's operations and  
250 programs to support research and innovation projects that

251 provide solutions to this state's transportation needs.

252 (g) The secretary shall appoint a member of the department  
253 to serve as the executive director of the Institute. The  
254 department shall coordinate with the entities referenced in  
255 paragraph (c) to adopt and approve additional policies  
256 establishing the Institute's executive committee and mission  
257 statement.

258 (h) The Institute shall submit an annual report to the  
259 Office of the Secretary and the commission containing  
260 performance metrics, including, but not limited to, expenditures  
261 of appropriated funds provided by the department, ongoing and  
262 proposed research efforts, and the application and success of  
263 past research efforts.

264 (3)-(2)(a)1. The Florida Transportation Commission is  
265 hereby created and shall consist of nine members appointed by  
266 the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. Members of  
267 the commission shall serve terms of 4 years each.

268 2. Members shall be appointed in such a manner as to  
269 equitably represent all geographic areas of this ~~the~~ state. At  
270 least three members of the commission shall represent or have  
271 expertise in higher education, transportation, or workforce  
272 development ~~Each member must be a registered voter and a citizen~~  
273 ~~of the state. Each member of the commission must also possess~~  
274 ~~business managerial experience in the private sector.~~

275 3. A member of the commission shall represent the

276 transportation needs of the state as a whole and may not  
277 subordinate the needs of the state to those of any particular  
278 area of the state.

279         4. The commission is assigned to the Office of the  
280 Secretary of the Department of Transportation for administrative  
281 and fiscal accountability purposes, but it shall otherwise  
282 function independently of the control and direction of the  
283 department.

284             (b) The commission shall:

285             1. Recommend major transportation policies for the  
286 Governor's approval and assure that approved policies and any  
287 revisions are properly executed.

288             2. Periodically review the status of the state  
289 transportation system, including highway, transit, rail,  
290 seaport, intermodal development, and aviation components of the  
291 system, and recommend improvements to the Governor and the  
292 Legislature.

293             3. Perform an in-depth evaluation of the annual department  
294 budget request, the Florida Transportation Plan, and the  
295 tentative work program for compliance with all applicable laws  
296 and established departmental policies. Except as specifically  
297 provided in s. 339.135(4)(c)2., (d), and (f), the commission may  
298 not consider individual construction projects but shall consider  
299 methods of accomplishing the goals of the department in the most  
300 effective, efficient, and businesslike manner.

301           4. Monitor the financial status of the department on a  
302 regular basis to assure that the department is managing revenue  
303 and bond proceeds responsibly and in accordance with law and  
304 established policy.

305           5. Monitor on at least a quarterly basis the efficiency,  
306 productivity, and management of the department using performance  
307 and production standards developed by the commission pursuant to  
308 s. 334.045.

309           6. Perform an in-depth evaluation of the factors causing  
310 disruption of project schedules in the adopted work program and  
311 recommend to the Governor and the Legislature methods to  
312 eliminate or reduce the disruptive effects of these factors.

313           7. Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature  
314 improvements to the department's organization in order to  
315 streamline and optimize the efficiency of the department. In  
316 reviewing the department's organization, the commission shall  
317 determine if the current district organizational structure is  
318 responsive to this state's changing economic and demographic  
319 development patterns. The report by the commission must be  
320 delivered to the Governor and the Legislature by December 15  
321 each year, as appropriate. The commission may retain experts as  
322 necessary to carry out this subparagraph, and the department  
323 shall pay the expenses of the experts.

324           8. Monitor the efficiency, productivity, and management of  
325 the agencies and authorities created under chapters 348 and 349;

the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority re-created pursuant to chapter 2000-411, Laws of Florida; ~~and any authority formed under chapter 343;~~ and any transit entity that is a recipient of funding from the department's public transit block grant program as created in s. 341.052. The commission shall also conduct periodic reviews of each agency's and authority's operations and budget, acquisition of property, management of revenue and bond proceeds, and compliance with applicable laws and generally accepted accounting principles.

(g) A member of the commission shall follow standards of conduct for public officers as provided in s. 112.313 ~~may not have any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, franchise, privilege, or other benefit granted or awarded by the department~~ during the term of his or her appointment and for 2 years after the termination of such appointment.

(4) ~~(3)~~

(b) The secretary may appoint positions at the level of deputy assistant secretary or director which the secretary deems necessary to accomplish the mission and goals of the department, including, but not limited to, the areas of program responsibility provided in this paragraph, each of whom shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the secretary. The secretary may combine, separate, or delete offices as needed in consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor. The department's areas of program responsibility include, but are

not limited to, all of the following:

1. Administration.
2. Planning.
3. Supply chain and modal development.
4. Design.
5. Highway operations.
6. Right-of-way.
7. Toll operations.
8. Transportation technology.
9. Information technology ~~systems~~.
10. Motor carrier weight inspection.
11. Work program and budget.
12. Comptroller.
13. Construction.
14. Statewide corridors.
15. Maintenance.
16. Forecasting and performance.
17. Emergency management.
18. Safety.
19. Materials.
20. Infrastructure and innovation.
21. Permitting.
22. Traffic operations.
23. Operational technology.

**Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section**

376 **311.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

377 311.07 Florida seaport transportation and economic  
378 development funding.—

379 (3)

380 (b) Projects eligible for funding by grants under the  
381 program are limited to the following port facilities or port  
382 transportation projects:

383 1. Transportation facilities within the jurisdiction of  
384 the port.

385 2. The dredging or deepening of channels, turning basins,  
386 or harbors.

387 3. The construction or rehabilitation of wharves, docks,  
388 structures, jetties, piers, storage facilities, cruise  
389 terminals, automated people mover systems, or any facilities  
390 necessary or useful in connection with any of the foregoing.

391 4. The acquisition of vessel tracking systems, container  
392 cranes, or other mechanized equipment used in the movement of  
393 cargo or passengers in international commerce.

394 5. The acquisition of land to be used for port purposes.

395 6. The acquisition, improvement, enlargement, or extension  
396 of existing port facilities.

397 7. Environmental protection projects which are necessary  
398 because of requirements imposed by a state agency as a condition  
399 of a permit or other form of state approval; which are necessary  
400 for environmental mitigation required as a condition of a state,

401 federal, or local environmental permit; which are necessary for  
402 the acquisition of spoil disposal sites and improvements to  
403 existing and future spoil sites; or which result from the  
404 funding of eligible projects listed in this paragraph.

405 8. Transportation facilities as defined in s. 334.03(30)  
406 which are not otherwise part of the Department of  
407 Transportation's adopted work program.

408 9. Intermodal access projects.

409 10. Construction or rehabilitation of port facilities as  
410 defined in s. 315.02, excluding any park or recreational  
411 facilities, in ports listed in s. 311.09(1) with operating  
412 revenues of \$5 million or less, provided that such projects  
413 create economic development opportunities, capital improvements,  
414 and positive financial returns to such ports.

415 11. Seaport master plan or strategic plan development or  
416 updates, including the purchase of data to support such plans.

417 12. Spaceport or space industry-related planning or  
418 construction of facilities on seaport property which is  
419 necessary or useful to advance the space industry in this state  
420 if such project provides an economic benefit to the community in  
421 which the seaport is located.

422 13. Commercial shipbuilding and manufacturing facilities  
423 on seaport property if such project provides an economic benefit  
424 to the community in which the seaport is located.

425 **Section 3. Subsections (1), (3), and (11) of section**

**311.09, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

311.09 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council.—

(1) The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council is created within the Department of Transportation to support the growth of the seaports of this state through the review, development, and financing of port transportation and port facilities. The council is composed ~~consists~~ of the following 18 members: the port director, or the port director's designee, of each of the ports of Jacksonville, Port Canaveral, Port Citrus, Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Miami, Port Manatee, St. Petersburg, Putnam County, Tampa, Port St. Joe, Panama City, Pensacola, Key West, and Fernandina; the secretary of the Department of Transportation or his or her designee; and the secretary of the Department of Commerce or his or her designee.

(3) The council shall prepare a 5-year Florida Seaport Mission Plan defining the goals and objectives of the council concerning the development of port facilities and an intermodal transportation system consistent with the goals of the Florida Transportation Plan developed pursuant to s. 339.155. The Florida Seaport Mission Plan shall include specific recommendations for the construction of transportation facilities connecting any port to another transportation mode, the construction of transportation facilities connecting any

451 port to the space and aerospace industries, and for the  
452 efficient, cost-effective development of transportation  
453 facilities or port facilities for the purpose of enhancing  
454 trade, promoting cargo flow, increasing cruise passenger  
455 movements, increasing port revenues, and providing economic  
456 benefits to this ~~the~~ state. The council shall develop a priority  
457 list of projects based on these recommendations annually and  
458 submit the list to the Department of Transportation. The council  
459 shall update the 5-year Florida Seaport Mission Plan annually  
460 and shall submit the plan no later than February 1 of each year  
461 to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
462 Representatives, the Department of Commerce, and the Department  
463 of Transportation. The council shall develop programs, based on  
464 an examination of existing programs in Florida and other states,  
465 for the training of ~~minorities~~ and secondary school students in  
466 job skills associated with employment opportunities in the  
467 maritime industry, and report on progress and recommendations  
468 for further action to the President of the Senate and the  
469 Speaker of the House of Representatives annually. Each member of  
470 the council shall submit semiannual reports to the Department of  
471 Transportation relating to seaport operations and their support  
472 of this state's economic competitiveness and supply chain. Each  
473 report must include information prescribed by the Department of  
474 Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Commerce,  
475 including, but, not limited to:

476        (a) Bulk break capacity.

477        (b) Liquid storage and capacity.

478        (c) Fuel storage and capacity.

479        (d) Container capacity.

480        (e) Supply chain disruptions.

481        (11) Members of the council shall serve without  
482 compensation but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per  
483 diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. The council  
484 may elect to provide an administrative staff to provide services  
485 to the council on matters relating to the Florida Seaport  
486 Transportation and Economic Development Program and the council.  
487 The cost for such administrative services shall be paid by all  
488 ports that receive funding from the Florida Seaport  
489 Transportation and Economic Development Program, based upon a  
490 pro rata formula measured by each recipient's share of the funds  
491 as compared to the total funds disbursed to all recipients  
492 during the year. The share of costs for administrative services  
493 shall be paid in its total amount by the recipient port upon  
494 execution by the port and the Department of Transportation of a  
495 joint participation agreement for each council-approved project,  
496 and such payment is in addition to the matching funds required  
497 to be paid by the recipient port. Except as otherwise exempted  
498 by law, all moneys derived from the Florida Seaport  
499 Transportation and Economic Development Program shall be  
500 expended in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 287.057.

Seaports subject to competitive negotiation requirements of a local governing body shall abide by ~~the provisions of s. 287.055.~~

**Section 4. Subsection (4) is added to section 311.10, Florida Statutes, to read:**

311.10 Strategic Port Investment Initiative.—

(4) As a condition of receiving a project grant under any program established in this chapter and as a condition of receiving state funds as described in s. 215.31, a seaport that is located in a county in which real property is designated as spaceport territory under s. 331.304 and that uses land, facilities, or infrastructure for the purpose of supporting spacecraft launch and recovery operations must, in any agreement with the Department of Transportation, agree that the seaport may not convert any planned or existing land, facility, or infrastructure dedicated for such purpose to any alternative purpose unless the Legislature expressly approves the use of state funds for a project that includes such a conversion.

**Section 5. Subsection (83) of section 316.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

316.003 Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where the context otherwise requires:

(83) SPECIAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT.—Any vehicle not designed or

526 used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and  
527 only incidentally operated or moved over a highway, including,  
528 but not limited to, ditchdigging apparatus, well-boring  
529 apparatus, and road construction and maintenance machinery, such  
530 as asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders,  
531 tractors other than truck tractors, ditchers, leveling graders,  
532 finishing machines, motor graders, road rollers, scarifiers,  
533 earthmoving carryalls and scrapers, power shovels and draglines,  
534 mobile and self-propelled cranes and accessory support vehicles,  
535 and earthmoving equipment. The term does not include house  
536 trailers, dump trucks, truck-mounted transit mixers, ~~cranes or~~  
537 ~~shovels,~~ or other vehicles designed for the transportation of  
538 persons or property to which machinery has been attached.

539       **Section 6. Subsection (7) of section 316.0745, Florida**  
540 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

541       316.0745 Uniform signals and devices.—

542       (7) The Department of Transportation may, upon receipt and  
543 investigation of reported noncompliance and after hearing  
544 pursuant to 14 days' notice, direct the removal of any purported  
545 traffic control device that fails to meet the requirements of  
546 this section, wherever the device is located and without regard  
547 to assigned responsibility under s. 316.1895. The public agency  
548 erecting or installing the same shall immediately bring it into  
549 compliance with the requirements of this section or remove said  
550 device or signal upon the direction of the Department of

551 Transportation and may not, for a period of 5 years, install any  
552 replacement or new traffic control devices paid for in part or  
553 in full with revenues raised by the state unless written prior  
554 approval is received from the Department of Transportation. Any  
555 additional violation by a public body or official shall be cause  
556 for the withholding of state funds ~~for traffic control purposes~~  
557 until such public body or official demonstrates to the  
558 Department of Transportation that it is complying with this  
559 section.

560 **Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 316.550, Florida**  
561 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

562 316.550 Operations not in conformity with law; special  
563 permits.—

564 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Department of  
565 Transportation may issue a mobile crane special blanket permit  
566 for any of the following purposes:

567 (a) To authorize a mobile crane to operate on and A permit  
568 ~~may authorize a self-propelled truck crane operating off the~~  
569 Interstate Highway System while towing ~~to tow~~ a motor vehicle  
570 that ~~which~~ does not weigh more than 5,000 pounds if the combined  
571 weight of the crane and such motor vehicle does not exceed  
572 95,000 pounds. Notwithstanding s. 320.01(7) or (12), mobile  
573 ~~truck~~ cranes that tow another motor vehicle under ~~the provision~~  
574 ~~of~~ this subsection shall be taxed under ~~the provisions of~~ s.  
575 320.08(5)(b).

(b) To authorize a mobile crane and accessory support vehicles that are up to 12 feet in width, 14 feet 6 inches in height, and 100 feet in length to operate on and off the Interstate Highway System at all hours except as restricted under a local travel-related curfew.

(c) To authorize a mobile crane and accessory support vehicles that, due to their design for special use, exceed the weight limits established in s. 316.535 to operate on and off the Interstate Highway System.

**Section 8. Section 330.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

330.27 Definitions, ~~when used in ss. 330.29-330.39.~~ As used in ss. 330.29-330.39, the term:

(1) "Air ambulance operation" means a flight with a patient or medical personnel on board for the purpose of medical transportation.

(2) ~~(1)~~ "Aircraft" means a powered or unpowered machine or device capable of atmospheric flight, including, but not limited to, an airplane, autogyro, glider, gyrodyne, helicopter, lift and cruise, multicopter, paramotor, powered lift, seaplane, tiltrotor, ultralight, or vectored thrust. The term does not include ~~except~~ a parachute or other such device used primarily as safety equipment.

(3) ~~(2)~~ "Airport" means a specific ~~an~~ area of land or water or a structure used for, or intended to be used for, ~~landing and~~

601 ~~takeoff of aircraft operations, which may include including~~  
602 appurtenant areas, buildings, facilities, or rights-of-way  
603 necessary to facilitate such use or intended use. The term  
604 includes, but is not limited to, an airpark, airport,  
605 gliderport, heliport, helistop, seaplane base, ultralight  
606 flightpark, vertiport, or vertistop.

607 (4) "Commercial air tour operation" means a flight  
608 conducted for compensation or hire in an aircraft when the  
609 purpose of the flight is sightseeing.

610 (5) "Commuter operation" means any scheduled operation  
611 conducted by a person operating an aircraft with a frequency of  
612 operations of at least five round trips per week on at least one  
613 route between two or more points according to the published  
614 flight schedule.

615 (6)(3) "Department" means the Department of  
616 Transportation.

617 (7)(4) "Limited airport" means any airport limited  
618 exclusively to the specific conditions stated on the site  
619 approval order or license.

620 (8) "On-demand operation" means any scheduled passenger-  
621 carrying operation for compensation or hire conducted by a  
622 person operating an aircraft with a frequency of operations of  
623 fewer than five round trips per week on at least one route  
624 between two or more points according to the published flight  
625 schedule.

626        ~~(9)-(5)~~ "Private airport" means an airport, publicly or  
627 privately owned, which is not open or available for use by the  
628 public, but may be made available to others by invitation of the  
629 owner or manager.

630        (10) "Private airport of public interest" means a private  
631 airport serving any of the following operations: air ambulance  
632 operation, commercial air tour operation, commuter operation,  
633 on-demand operation, public charter operation, scheduled  
634 operation, or supplemental operation.

635        ~~(11)-(6)~~ "Public airport" means an airport, publicly or  
636 privately owned, which is open for use by the public.

637        (12) "Public charter operation" means a one-way or round-  
638 trip charter flight performed by one or more direct air carriers  
639 which is arranged and sponsored by a charter operator.

640        (13) "Scheduled operation" means any common carriage  
641 passenger-carrying operation for compensation or hire conducted  
642 by an air carrier or commercial operator for which the  
643 certificateholder or its representative offers in advance the  
644 departure location, departure time, and arrival location.

645        (14) "Supplemental operation" means any common carriage  
646 operation for compensation or hire conducted with an aircraft  
647 for which the departure time, departure location, and arrival  
648 location are specifically negotiated with the customer or  
649 customer's representative.

650        ~~(15)-(7)~~ "Temporary airport" means an airport at which

flight operations are conducted under visual flight rules established by the Federal Aviation Administration and which is used for less than 30 consecutive days with no more than 10 operations per day.

~~(8) "Ultralight aircraft" means any aircraft meeting the criteria established by part 103 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.~~

**Section 9. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2) and subsection (4) of section 330.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

330.30 Approval of airport sites; registration, certification, and licensure of airports.—

(2) LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND REGISTRATIONS;  
REQUIREMENTS, RENEWAL, REVOCATION.—

(a) Except as provided in subsection (3), the owner or lessee of an airport in this state shall have a public airport license, private airport registration, or temporary airport registration before the operation of aircraft to or from the airport. Application for a license or registration shall be made in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

1. For a public airport, upon granting site approval, the department shall issue a license after a final airport inspection finds that the airport is ~~to be~~ in compliance with all requirements for the license. The license may be subject to any reasonable conditions the department deems necessary to

676 protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

677       2. For a private airport, upon granting site approval, the  
678 department shall provide controlled electronic access to the  
679 state aviation facility data system to permit the applicant to  
680 complete the registration process. Registration shall be  
681 completed upon self-certification by the registrant of  
682 operational and configuration data deemed necessary by the  
683 department.

684       3. For a temporary airport, the department must publish  
685 notice of receipt of a completed registration application in the  
686 next available publication of the Florida Administrative  
687 Register and may not approve a registration application less  
688 than 14 days after the date of publication of the notice. The  
689 department must approve or deny a registration application  
690 within 30 days after receipt of a completed application and must  
691 issue the temporary airport registration concurrent with the  
692 airport site approval. A completed registration application that  
693 is not approved or denied within 30 days after the department  
694 receives the completed application is considered approved and  
695 shall be issued, subject to such reasonable conditions as are  
696 authorized by law. An applicant seeking to claim registration by  
697 default under this subparagraph must notify the agency clerk of  
698 the department, in writing, of the intent to rely upon the  
699 default registration provision of this subparagraph and may not  
700 take any action based upon the default registration until after

701 receipt of such notice by the agency clerk.

702 4. A private airport of public interest as defined in s.  
703 330.27 must obtain a certificate from the department before  
704 allowing aircraft operations. The department shall issue a  
705 certificate after a final inspection finds that the private  
706 airport of public interest is in compliance with all of the  
707 requirements for a certificate. The certificate is subject to  
708 any reasonable conditions that the department deems necessary to  
709 protect the health, safety, or welfare of the public. A private  
710 airport that was engaged in operations associated with a private  
711 airport of public interest on or before July 1, 2025, may  
712 continue its operations but must obtain a certificate from the  
713 department before July 1, 2030.

714 (d)1. Each public airport license shall expire no later  
715 than 1 year after the effective date of the license, except that  
716 the expiration date of a license may be adjusted to provide a  
717 maximum license period of 18 months to facilitate airport  
718 inspections, recognize seasonal airport operations, or improve  
719 administrative efficiency.

720 2. Registration for private airports shall remain valid  
721 provided specific elements of airport data, established by the  
722 department, are periodically recertified by the airport  
723 registrant. The ability to recertify private airport  
724 registration data shall be available at all times by electronic  
725 submittal. A private airport registration that has not been

726 recertified in the 24-month period following the last  
727 certification shall expire, unless the registration period has  
728 been adjusted by the department for purposes of informing  
729 private airport owners of their registration responsibilities or  
730 promoting administrative efficiency. The expiration date of the  
731 current registration period will be clearly identifiable from  
732 the state aviation facility data system.

733 3. The effective date and expiration date shall be shown  
734 on public airport licenses. Upon receiving an application for  
735 renewal of an airport license in a form and manner prescribed by  
736 the department and receiving a favorable inspection report  
737 indicating compliance with all applicable requirements and  
738 conditions, the department shall renew the license, subject to  
739 any conditions deemed necessary to protect the public health,  
740 safety, or welfare.

741 4. The department may require a new site approval for any  
742 airport if the license or registration has expired.

743 5. If the renewal application for a public airport license  
744 has not been received by the department or no private airport  
745 registration recertification has been accomplished within 15  
746 days after the date of expiration, the department may revoke the  
747 airport license or registration.

748 6. After initial registration, the department may issue a  
749 certificate to a private airport of public interest if the  
750 airport is in compliance with all of the requirements for a

751 certificate after a final inspection of the private airport of  
752 public interest. The certificate is subject to any reasonable  
753 conditions that the department deems necessary to protect the  
754 health, safety, or welfare of the public. A certificate issued  
755 to a private airport of public interest expires 5 years after  
756 the effective date of the certificate.

757 (4) EXCEPTIONS.—Private airports with 10 or more based  
758 aircraft may request to be inspected and licensed by the  
759 department. Private airports licensed according to this  
760 subsection shall be considered private airports as defined in s.  
761 330.27 ~~s. 330.27(5)~~ in all other respects.

762 **Section 10. Section 331.371, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
763 **to read:**

764 331.371 Strategic space infrastructure investment.—

765 (1) In consultation with Space Florida, the Department of  
766 Transportation may fund spaceport discretionary capacity  
767 improvement projects, as defined in s. 331.303, at up to 100  
768 percent of the project's cost if:

769 (a) ~~(1)~~ Important access and on-spaceport-territory space  
770 transportation capacity improvements are provided. †

771 (b) ~~(2)~~ Capital improvements that strategically position  
772 the state to maximize opportunities in international trade are  
773 achieved. †

774 (c) ~~(3)~~ Goals of an integrated intermodal transportation  
775 system for the state are achieved. † ~~and~~

776        (d) ~~(4)~~ Feasibility and availability of matching funds  
777 through federal, local, or private partners are demonstrated.

778        (2) (a) In consultation with the Department of Commerce and  
779 the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of  
780 Transportation may fund infrastructure projects to support  
781 aerospace and launch support facilities and projects associated  
782 with critical infrastructure facilities as defined in s. 692.201  
783 within or outside a spaceport territory if the project supports  
784 aerospace or launch support facilities within an adjacent  
785 spaceport territory boundary.

786        (b) The Department of Transportation, the Department of  
787 Commerce, and the Department of Environmental Protection shall  
788 coordinate in funding projects under this subsection to optimize  
789 the use of available funds.

790        **Section 11. Section 332.003, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
791 **to read:**

792        332.003 Florida Airport Development and Accountability  
793 ~~Assistance~~ Act; short title.—Sections 332.003–332.007 may be  
794 cited as the "Florida Airport Development and Accountability  
795 ~~Assistance~~ Act."

796        **Section 12. Section 332.005, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
797 **to read:**

798        332.005 Restrictions on authority of Department of  
799 Transportation.—

800        (1) This act specifically prohibits the Department of

801 Transportation from regulating commercial air carriers operating  
802 within the state pursuant to federal authority and regulations;  
803 from participating in or exercising control in the management  
804 and operation of a sponsor's airport, except when officially  
805 requested by the sponsor; or from expanding the design or  
806 operational capability of the department in the area of airport  
807 and aviation consultants' contract work, other than to provide  
808 technical assistance as requested.

809 (2) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1), upon the  
810 declaration of a state of emergency issued by the Governor in  
811 preparation for or in response to a natural disaster, an airport  
812 must provide the Department of Transportation, at no cost, with  
813 the opportunity to use any property not subject to an existing  
814 lease agreement with a third party that is not within the air  
815 navigation facility as defined in s. 332.01(4) for the staging  
816 of equipment and personnel to support emergency preparedness and  
817 response operations.

818 (b) After 60 days of use under paragraph (a), any further  
819 use of airport property by the Department of Transportation must  
820 be conducted pursuant to a written agreement between the airport  
821 and the Department of Transportation.

822 **Section 13. Subsection (7) of section 332.006, Florida**  
823 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

824 332.006 Duties and responsibilities of the Department of  
825 Transportation.—The Department of Transportation shall, within

the resources provided pursuant to chapter 216:

(7) Develop, promote, and distribute supporting information and educational services, including, but not limited to, educational services with a focus on retention and growth of the aviation industry workforce.

**Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7), subsection (8), and paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section 332.007, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:**

332.007 Administration and financing of aviation and airport programs and projects; state plan.—

(2)

(c) Each commercial service airport as defined in s. 332.0075(1) shall establish and maintain an airport infrastructure program to ensure the ongoing preservation of airport infrastructure and facilities in safe and serviceable condition. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "airport infrastructure" means the facilities, systems, and structural components of an airport which are necessary for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Beginning November 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each commercial service airport must provide a certification to the department in a manner prescribed by the department that the commercial service airport has established and maintains a comprehensive airport infrastructure program. All documents and records related to the

851 comprehensive airport infrastructure program must be open to  
852 inspection by the department and maintained by the commercial  
853 service airport for at least 5 years. The comprehensive airport  
854 infrastructure program must, at a minimum, include all of the  
855 following:

856 1. Identification of the commercial service airport's  
857 infrastructure that is subject to inspection and the schedule  
858 for the completion of such inspections, taking into  
859 consideration the age, type, intended use, and criticality of  
860 the infrastructure to undisrupted commercial or cargo  
861 operations.

862 2. A preventative maintenance program for routine  
863 maintenance of the commercial service airport's infrastructure  
864 for both commercial and cargo operations.

865 3. A plan to complete any necessary repairs to, or  
866 rehabilitation or reconstruction of, the commercial service  
867 airport's infrastructure, including the prioritization of and  
868 the anticipated timeframe for completion of the work.

869 4. A progress report of inspections and their outcomes,  
870 preventative maintenance, and previously identified repairs to,  
871 or rehabilitation or reconstruction of, the commercial service  
872 airport's infrastructure. The progress report must include any  
873 changes in the timeline for completion, changes in cost  
874 estimates, and reasons an inspection, any preventative  
875 maintenance, or any rehabilitation or reconstruction did not

876 take place.

877 (7) Subject to the availability of appropriated funds in  
878 addition to aviation fuel tax revenues, the department may  
879 participate in the capital cost of eligible public airport and  
880 aviation discretionary capacity improvement projects. The annual  
881 legislative budget request shall be based on the funding  
882 required for discretionary capacity improvement projects in the  
883 aviation and airport work program.

884 (a) The department shall provide priority funding in  
885 support of:

886 1. Terminal and parking expansion projects that increase  
887 capacity at airports that provide commercial service in counties  
888 with a population of 500,000 or less.

889 2.1. Land acquisition which provides additional capacity  
890 at the qualifying international airport or at that airport's  
891 supplemental air carrier airport.

892 3.2. Runway and taxiway projects that add capacity or are  
893 necessary to accommodate technological changes in the aviation  
894 industry.

895 4.3. Airport access transportation projects that improve  
896 direct airport access and are approved by the airport sponsor.

897 5.4. International terminal projects that increase  
898 international gate capacity.

899 6. Projects that improve the safe and efficient operation  
900 of this state's airports.

901        7. Emerging technology, workforce development projects,  
902        and projects that benefit the strategic intermodal system  
903        through intermodal connectivity.

904        (8) The department may also fund eligible projects  
905        performed by not-for-profit organizations and postsecondary  
906        education institutions, as defined in s. 1008.47(1), which  
907        support the training of pilots, air traffic control personnel,  
908        or aircraft maintenance technical personnel ~~that represent a~~  
909        ~~majority of public airports in this state.~~ Eligible projects may  
910        include activities associated with aviation master planning,  
911        professional education, safety and security planning, enhancing  
912        economic development and efficiency at airports in this state,  
913        or other planning efforts to improve the viability and safety of  
914        airports in this state. The department may also fund programs  
915        that support the transition of honorably discharged military  
916        personnel to the aviation industry. The department may match  
917        funds provided by the Department of Commerce for such programs.

918        (9) The department may fund strategic airport investment  
919        projects at up to 100 percent of the project's cost if:

920        (b) Capital improvements that strategically position the  
921        state to maximize opportunities in tourism, international trade,  
922        logistics, and the aviation industry are provided;

923        **Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section**  
924        **332.0075, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

925        332.0075 Commercial service airports; transparency and

926 accountability; penalty.—

927 (1) As used in this section, the term:

928 (a) "Commercial service airport" means an airport  
929 providing commercial services, including large, medium, small,  
930 and nonhub airports as classified ~~a primary airport as defined~~  
931 ~~in 49 U.S.C. s. 47102 which is classified as a large, medium, or~~  
932 ~~small hub airport~~ by the Federal Aviation Administration.

933 (b) "Consent agenda" means an agenda which consists of  
934 items voted on collectively or as a group and which does not  
935 provide the opportunity for public comment on each such item  
936 before approval or disapproval by the governing body.

937 (c) "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

938 (d) "Governing body" means the governing body of the  
939 county, municipality, or special district that operates a  
940 commercial service airport. The term includes an appointed board  
941 or oversight entity serving as the governing body on behalf of  
942 the county, municipality, or special district.

943 (2) Each governing body shall establish and maintain a  
944 website to post information relating to the operation of a  
945 commercial service airport, and such information must remain on  
946 the website for at least 5 years or for as long as the  
947 information is actively in use by the entity. Information that  
948 must be posted on the governing body's website includes  
949 ~~including:~~

950 (a) All published notices of meetings and published

951 meeting agendas of the governing body.

952 (b) The official minutes of each meeting of the governing  
953 body, which must ~~shall~~ be posted within 7 business days after  
954 the date of the meeting in which the minutes were approved.

955 (c) The approved budget for the commercial service airport  
956 for the current fiscal year, which shall be posted within 7  
957 business days after the date of adoption. Budgets must remain on  
958 the website for 5 ~~2~~ years after the conclusion of the fiscal  
959 year for which they were adopted.

960 (d) Copies of ~~A link to~~ the current Airport Master Plan  
961 and the immediately preceding Airport Master Plan for the  
962 commercial service airport and a link to the current Airport  
963 Master Plan on the commercial service airport's website.

964 (e) A link to all financial and statistical reports for  
965 the commercial service airport on the Federal Aviation  
966 Administration's website.

967 (f) Any contract or contract amendment for the purchase of  
968 commodities or contractual services executed by or on behalf of  
969 the commercial service airport in excess of the threshold amount  
970 provided in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY FIVE, which must ~~shall~~ be  
971 posted no later than 7 business days after the commercial  
972 service airport executes the contract or contract amendment.  
973 However, a contract or contract amendment may not reveal  
974 information made confidential or exempt by law. Each commercial  
975 service airport must redact confidential or exempt information

976 from each contract or contract amendment before posting a copy  
977 on its website.

978 (g) Position and rate information for each employee of the  
979 commercial service airport, including, at a minimum, the  
980 employee's position title, position description, and annual or  
981 hourly salary. This information must ~~shall~~ be updated quarterly  
982 annually.

983 (5)(a) Each November 1, the governing body of each  
984 commercial service airport shall submit the following  
985 information to the department:

- 986 1. Its approved budget for the current fiscal year.
- 987 2. Any financial reports submitted to the Federal Aviation  
988 Administration during the previous calendar year.
- 989 3. A link to its website.
- 990 4. A statement, verified as provided in s. 92.525, that it  
991 has complied with part III of chapter 112, chapter 287, and this  
992 section.
- 993 5. The most recent copy of its strategic plan or plans.
- 994 6. Contracts related to financial awards received through  
995 federally funded grant programs for the preceding year.

996 (b) The department shall review the information submitted  
997 by the governing body of the commercial service airport and  
998 posted on the airport's website to determine the accuracy of  
999 such information. Each January 15, the department shall submit  
1000 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of

the House of Representatives a report summarizing commercial service airport compliance with this section.

(c) In addition to the requirements of this section, a commercial service airport must:

1. Notify the department within 48 hours after receiving a communication or directive from a federal agency with respect to accommodating public health testing or the transfer of unauthorized aliens into this state.

2. Notify the department as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 48 hours after discovery, of incidents including, but not limited to, those related to the safety of the public when traveling, potential breaches or security risks associated with cybersecurity, or other issues of statewide concern as defined by the department.

**Section 16. Section 332.15, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

332.15 Advanced air mobility.—The Department of Transportation shall:

(1) Address the need for vertiports, advanced air mobility, and other advances in aviation technology in the statewide aviation system plan as required under s. 332.006(1) and, as appropriate, in the department's work program.

(2) Designate a subject matter expert on advanced air mobility within the department to serve as a resource for local jurisdictions navigating advances in aviation technology.

1026        (3) Conduct a review of airport hazard zone regulations.

1027        (4) Work with the Department of Commerce to provide  
1028 coordination and assistance for the development of a viable  
1029 advanced air mobility system in this state and incorporate those  
1030 plans in the statewide aviation system plan as required under s.  
1031 332.006(1) in order to develop and identify the statewide  
1032 corridors of need and opportunities for growth of the industry.

1033        **Section 17. Subsections (5) and (26) of section 334.044,**  
1034 **Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (37), (38), and**  
1035 **(39) are added to that section, to read:**

1036        334.044 Powers and duties of the department.—The  
1037 department shall have the following general powers and duties:

1038        (5) To purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire property and  
1039 materials, including the purchase of promotional items as part  
1040 of public information and education campaigns for the promotion  
1041 of environmental management, scenic highways, traffic and train  
1042 safety awareness, ~~alternatives to single-occupant vehicle~~  
1043 ~~travel~~, commercial motor vehicle safety, workforce development,  
1044 electric vehicle use and charging stations, autonomous vehicles,  
1045 and context classification ~~design~~ for electric vehicles and  
1046 autonomous vehicles; to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire  
1047 equipment and supplies; and to sell, exchange, or otherwise  
1048 dispose of any property that is no longer needed by the  
1049 department.

1050        (26) To provide for the enhancement of environmental

benefits, including air and water quality; to prevent roadside erosion; to conserve the natural roadside growth and scenery; and to provide for the implementation and maintenance of roadside conservation, enhancement, and stabilization programs.

(a) On an annual basis, an amount equal to at least 1.5 percent of the total amount contracted for the average of the previous 3 completed fiscal years of construction projects shall be allocated by the department on a statewide basis for the purchase of plant materials to enhance State Highway System rights-of-way and arterial facilities. Such funds must be allocated on a statewide basis. ~~Department districts may not expend funds for landscaping in connection with any project that is limited to resurfacing existing lanes unless the expenditure has been approved by the department's secretary or the secretary's designee.~~

(b) To the greatest extent practical, at least 50 percent of the funds allocated under paragraph (a) ~~this subsection~~ shall be allocated for large plant materials and the remaining funds for other plant materials.

(c) Except as prohibited by applicable federal law or regulation, all plant materials shall be purchased from Florida commercial nursery stock in this state on a uniform competitive bid basis. The department shall develop grades and standards for landscaping materials purchased through this process, which must include standards for landscaping materials native to specific

regions of this state which are reflective of this state's heritage and natural landscapes. ~~To accomplish these activities, the department may contract with nonprofit organizations having the primary purpose of developing youth employment opportunities.~~

(37) Notwithstanding s. 287.022 or s. 287.025, to enter into contracts for insurance that the department is contractually and legally obligated to provide directly from local, national, or international insurance companies.

(38) Notwithstanding s. 287.14, to purchase, lease, or acquire heavy equipment and motor vehicles for roadway operations and emergency response purposes, regardless of whether the department has exchanged or ceased the operation of motor vehicles or heavy equipment already under the department's ownership.

(39) To adopt rules to comply with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 26 and applicable federal law for the notification and participation of certified businesses.

**Section 18. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 334.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

334.045 Transportation performance and productivity standards; development; measurement; application.—

(1) The Florida Transportation Commission shall develop and adopt measures for evaluating the performance and productivity of the department. The measures may be both

quantitative and qualitative and must, to the maximum extent practical, assess those factors that are within the department's control. The measures must, at a minimum, assess performance in the following areas:

(f) ~~Small Disadvantaged business enterprise and minority business programs~~ as established in s. 337.027.

**Section 19. Section 334.067, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

334.067 Statewide mapping pilot program.—

(1) Subject to specific appropriation and notwithstanding s. 20.255(9), the department shall create a statewide mapping pilot program that houses geospatial data managed by state agencies. The pilot program must utilize light detection and ranging (LiDAR) or similar geospatial data technology to support critical features for programs across the department and other state and local agencies.

(2) The department shall administer the pilot program and use qualified firms to collect and process statewide mapping data at a minimum density of 25 points per meter, including the creation of digital elevation models and elevation-derived hydrography data, and provide for a cloud-based portal for data management and distribution.

(3) The statewide mapping data must be collected on a recurring basis with at least one-third of the data relating to state lands collected annually.

1126        (4) Any state agency using LiDAR or similar geospatial  
1127 data technology must participate in the pilot program.

1128        (5) The department may enter into cooperative agreements  
1129 with state agencies and state institutions, counties,  
1130 municipalities, and county and municipal agencies and  
1131 institutions for compensation on a pro-rata basis for the  
1132 associated use, storage, and facilitation of the statewide  
1133 mapping pilot program.

1134        **Section 20. Subsection (3) is added to section 334.27,**  
1135 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

1136        334.27 Governmental transportation entities; property  
1137 acquired for transportation purposes; limitation on soil or  
1138 groundwater contamination liability.—

1139        (3) A parking authority established under the laws of this  
1140 state or any of its counties, municipalities, or political  
1141 subdivisions may conduct business; operate, manage, and control  
1142 facilities; and provide services to contiguous geographical  
1143 boundaries of such counties, municipalities, or political  
1144 subdivisions that originally chartered such authority. The  
1145 parking authority may engage in activities outside of its  
1146 chartering jurisdiction upon entering into an interlocal  
1147 agreement with the governing body of the affected contiguous  
1148 county, municipality, or political subdivision, as applicable.

1149        **Section 21. Section 334.62, Florida Statutes, is created**  
1150 **to read:**

1151 334.62 Florida Transportation Academy.—

1152 (1) The Legislature finds that the growth and  
1153 sustainability of the transportation workforce industry is vital  
1154 to the continued success and efficiency of this state's supply  
1155 chain and economic competitiveness. In order to prioritize the  
1156 continued need for transportation industry workforce development  
1157 programs, the Florida Transportation Academy is established.

1158 (2) In order to support, promote, and sustain workforce  
1159 development efforts of the transportation sector, the department  
1160 may work with state agencies referenced in this chapter,  
1161 industry organizations, and private sector businesses, as  
1162 appropriate.

1163 (3) The department may coordinate with all of the  
1164 following entities:

1165 (a) The Department of Corrections to identify and create  
1166 certification and training opportunities for nonviolent inmates  
1167 and create a process to allow the Department of Corrections to  
1168 notify the department when a nonviolent inmate who is seeking  
1169 employment has received a scheduled release date.

1170 (b) The Department of Juvenile Justice and its educational  
1171 partners to create certification and training opportunities for  
1172 eligible youth.

1173 (c) Veterans' organizations to encourage honorably  
1174 discharged veterans to pursue opportunities within the  
1175 transportation industry, including, but not limited to,

employment as pilots, mechanics, and air traffic controllers.

(d) The Department of Commerce, CareerSource Florida, and regional business communities, within and outside of the transportation industry, to further understand recruitment and retention needs and job-seeker pipelines.

(e) The American Council of Engineering Companies and the Florida Transportation Builders Association to optimize workforce recruitment and retention and assess the future needs of the transportation industry and this state.

**Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 335.182, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

335.182 Regulation of connections to roads on State Highway System; definitions.—

(3) As used in this act, the term:

(a) "Connection" means driveways, streets, turnouts, or other means of providing for the right of reasonable access to or from the State Highway System.

(b) "Modification of a connection" means relocation, alteration, or closure of a connection.

(c) ~~(b)~~ "Significant change" means:

1. A change in the use of the property, including development of the land, structures, or facilities;~~7~~ or

2. An expansion of the size of the property, structures, or facilities causing an increase in the trip generation of the property exceeding 25 percent more trip generation, either peak

hour or daily, ~~+~~ and exceeding 100 vehicles per day more than the existing use.

**Section 23. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 335.187, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

335.187 Unpermitted connections; existing access permits; nonconforming permits; modification and revocation of permits.—

(3) The department may issue a nonconforming access permit if denying ~~after finding that to deny~~ an access permit would leave the property without a reasonable means of access to the State Highway System. The department may specify limits on the maximum vehicular use of the connection and may impose conditions ~~be conditioned~~ on the availability of future alternative means of access for which access permits can be obtained.

(4) After written notice and the opportunity for a hearing, as provided for in s. 120.60, the department may modify or revoke an access permit issued after July 1, 1988, by requiring modification ~~relocation, alteration, or closure~~ of an existing connection if:

(a) A significant change occurs in the use, design, or traffic flow of the connection; or

(b) The connection would jeopardize the safety of the public or have a negative impact on the operational characteristics of the highway.

**Section 24. Subsection (3) of section 337.027, Florida**

1226 **Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), subsection (2) is**  
1227 **amended, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section, to**  
1228 **read:**

1229       337.027 Authority to implement a business development  
1230 program.—

1231       (2) For purposes of this section, the term "small  
1232 business" means a business with yearly average gross receipts of  
1233 less than \$25 ~~\$15~~ million for road and bridge contracts and less  
1234 than \$10 ~~\$6.5~~ million for professional and nonprofessional  
1235 services contracts. A business' average gross receipts is  
1236 determined by averaging its annual gross receipts over the last  
1237 3 years, including the receipts of any affiliate as defined in  
1238 s. 337.165.

1239       (3) The program must provide notice of opportunities for  
1240 businesses qualified for the program.

1241       **Section 25. Subsection (6) of section 337.11, Florida**  
1242 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1243       337.11 Contracting authority of department; bids;  
1244 emergency repairs, supplemental agreements, and change orders;  
1245 combined design and construction contracts; progress payments;  
1246 records; requirements of vehicle registration.—

1247       (6) (a) If the secretary determines that an emergency in  
1248 regard to the restoration or repair of any state transportation  
1249 facility exists such that the delay incident to giving  
1250 opportunity for competitive bidding would be detrimental to the

1251 interests of the state, the provisions for competitive bidding  
1252 do not apply; and the department may enter into contracts for  
1253 restoration or repair without giving opportunity for competitive  
1254 bidding on such contracts. Within 30 days after such  
1255 determination and contract execution, the head of the department  
1256 shall file with the Executive Office of the Governor a written  
1257 statement of the conditions and circumstances constituting such  
1258 emergency.

1259 (b) If the secretary determines that delays on a contract  
1260 for maintenance exist due to administrative challenges, bid  
1261 protests, defaults or terminations and the further delay would  
1262 reduce safety on the transportation facility or seriously hinder  
1263 the department's ability to preserve the state's investment in  
1264 that facility, competitive bidding provisions may be waived and  
1265 the department may enter into a contract for maintenance on the  
1266 facility. However, contracts for maintenance executed under the  
1267 provisions of this paragraph shall be interim in nature and  
1268 shall be limited in duration to a period of time not to exceed  
1269 the length of the delay necessary to complete the competitive  
1270 bidding process and have the contract in place.

1271 (c) When the department determines that it is in the best  
1272 interest of the public for reasons of public concern, economy,  
1273 improved operations, or safety, and only when circumstances  
1274 dictate rapid completion of the work, the department may, up to  
1275 the amount of \$500,000, enter into contracts for construction

1276 and maintenance without advertising and receiving competitive  
1277 bids. The department may enter into such contracts only upon a  
1278 determination that the work is necessary for one of the  
1279 following reasons:

1280 1. To ensure timely completion of projects or avoidance of  
1281 undue delay for other projects;

1282 2. To accomplish minor repairs or construction and  
1283 maintenance activities for which time is of the essence and for  
1284 which significant cost savings would occur; or

1285 3. To accomplish nonemergency work necessary to ensure  
1286 avoidance of adverse conditions that affect the safe and  
1287 efficient flow of traffic.

1288  
1289 The department shall make a good faith effort to obtain two or  
1290 more quotes, if available, from qualified contractors before  
1291 entering into any contract. The department shall give  
1292 consideration to small ~~disadvantaged~~ business ~~enterprise~~  
1293 participation. However, when the work exists within the limits  
1294 of an existing contract, the department shall make a good faith  
1295 effort to negotiate and enter into a contract with the prime  
1296 contractor on the existing contract.

1297 **Section 26. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**  
1298 **337.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1299 337.18 Surety bonds for construction or maintenance  
1300 contracts; requirement with respect to contract award; bond

requirements; defaults; damage assessments.—

(1)(a) A surety bond shall be required of the successful bidder in an amount equal to the awarded contract price. However, the department may choose, in its discretion and applicable only to multiyear maintenance contracts, to allow for incremental annual contract bonds that cumulatively total the full, awarded, multiyear contract price. The department may also choose, in its discretion and applicable only to phased design-build contracts under s. 337.11(7)(b), to allow the issuance of multiple contract performance and payment bonds in succession to align with each phase of the contract to meet the bonding requirement in this subsection. Notwithstanding any bonding requirement under this section, the department may require, at the discretion of the secretary, that the amount of the surety bond or bonds be less than the contract price.

1. The department may waive the requirement for all or a portion of a surety bond if:

a. The contract price is \$250,000 or less and the department determines that the project is of a noncritical nature and that nonperformance will not endanger public health, safety, or property;

b. The prime contractor is a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or for the other severely handicapped under s. 413.036(2); or

c. The prime contractor is using a subcontractor that is a

1326 qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or for the other  
1327 severely handicapped under s. 413.036(2). However, the  
1328 department may not waive more than the amount of the  
1329 subcontract.

1330         2. If the department determines that it is in the best  
1331 interests of the department to reduce the bonding requirement  
1332 for a project and that to do so will not endanger public health,  
1333 safety, or property, the department may waive the requirement of  
1334 a surety bond in an amount equal to the awarded contract price  
1335 for a project having a contract price of \$250 million or more  
1336 and, in its place, may set a surety bond amount that is a  
1337 portion of the total contract price and provide an alternate  
1338 means of security for the balance of the contract amount that is  
1339 not covered by the surety bond or provide for incremental surety  
1340 bonding and provide an alternate means of security for the  
1341 balance of the contract amount that is not covered by the surety  
1342 bond. Such alternative means of security may include letters of  
1343 credit, United States bonds and notes, parent company  
1344 guarantees, and cash collateral. The department may require  
1345 alternate means of security if a surety bond is waived. The  
1346 surety on such bond shall be a surety company authorized to do  
1347 business in the state. All bonds shall be payable to the  
1348 department and conditioned for the prompt, faithful, and  
1349 efficient performance of the contract according to plans and  
1350 specifications and within the time period specified, and for the

prompt payment of all persons defined in s. 713.01 furnishing labor, material, equipment, and supplies for work provided in the contract; however, whenever an improvement, demolition, or removal contract price is \$25,000 or less, the security may, in the discretion of the bidder, be in the form of a cashier's check, bank money order of any state or national bank, certified check, or postal money order. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Such rules shall include provisions under which the department shall refuse to accept bonds on contracts when a surety wrongfully fails or refuses to settle or provide a defense for claims or actions arising under a contract for which the surety previously furnished a bond.

**Section 27. Subsection (3) of section 337.251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

337.251 Lease of property for joint public-private development and areas above or below department property.—

(3) A proposal must be selected by the department based on competitive bidding, except that the department may consider other relevant factors specified in the request for proposals. The department may consider such factors as the value of property exchanges, the cost of construction, and other recurring costs for the benefit of the department by the lessee in lieu of direct revenue to the department if such other factors are of equal value including innovative proposals to involve small ~~minority~~ businesses. The department may name a

board of advisers which may be composed of accountants, real estate appraisers, design engineers, or other experts experienced in the type of development proposed. The board of advisers shall review the feasibility of the proposals, recommend acceptance or rejection of each proposal, and rank each feasible proposal in the order of technical feasibility and benefit provided to the department. The board of advisers shall be reasonably compensated for the services provided and all department costs for evaluating the proposals shall be reimbursed from a proposal application fee to be set by the department and paid by the applicants. The board of advisers shall not be subject to selection under the provisions of chapter 287.

**Section 28. Subsection (2) of section 337.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

337.401 Use of right-of-way for utilities subject to regulation; permit; fees.—

(2) (a) The authority may grant to any person who is a resident of this state, or to any corporation which is organized under the laws of this state or licensed to do business within this state, the use of a right-of-way for the utility in accordance with such rules or regulations as the authority may adopt. A utility may not be installed, located, or relocated unless authorized by a written permit issued by the authority. However, for public roads or publicly owned rail corridors under

the jurisdiction of the department, a utility relocation schedule and relocation agreement may be executed in lieu of a written permit. The permit must require the permitholder to be responsible for any damage resulting from the issuance of such permit. The authority may initiate injunctive proceedings as provided in s. 120.69 to enforce ~~provisions of~~ this subsection or any rule or order issued or entered into pursuant to this subsection ~~thereto~~. A permit application required under this subsection by a county or municipality having jurisdiction and control of the right-of-way of any public road must be processed and acted upon in accordance with the timeframes provided in subparagraphs (7)(d)7., 8., and 9.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a county or municipality may not adopt a rule or regulation that prohibits or requires a permit for the installation of a public sewer transmission line that is placed and maintained within and under publicly dedicated rights-of-way as part of a septic-to-sewer conversion project in which the department and the Department of Environmental Protection or its designee have issued permits under this chapter or chapter 403, respectively.

**Section 29. Subsection (4) of section 337.406, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

337.406 Unlawful use of state transportation facility right-of-way; penalties.—

(4) Camping is prohibited on any portion of the right-of-

way of the State Highway System. This subsection does not apply to persons who are actively navigating the federally designated Florida National Scenic Trail as recognized in s. 260.012(6) and have acquired the associated permits ~~that is within 100 feet of a bridge, causeway, overpass, or ramp.~~

**Section 30. Subsection (4) of section 338.227, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

338.227 Turnpike revenue bonds.—

(4) The Department of Transportation and the Department of Management Services shall create and implement an outreach program designed to enhance the participation of small minority ~~persons and minority~~ business enterprises in all contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2025, by their respective departments for services related to the financing of department projects for the Strategic Intermodal System Plan developed pursuant to s. 339.64. These services shall include, but are not limited to, bond counsel and bond underwriters.

**Section 31. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 339.2821, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

339.2821 Economic development transportation projects.—

(3)

(b) The department must ensure that it supports small businesses as defined in s. 337.027(2) ~~small and minority businesses have equal access to participate in transportation~~

1451 ~~projects funded pursuant to this section.~~

1452 (4) A contract between the department and a governmental  
1453 body for a transportation project must:

1454 (c) Require that the governmental body provide the  
1455 department with progress reports. Each progress report must  
1456 contain:

1457 1. A narrative description of the work completed and  
1458 whether the work is proceeding according to the transportation  
1459 project schedule.~~†~~

1460 2. A description of each change order executed by the  
1461 governmental body.~~†~~

1462 3. A budget summary detailing planned expenditures  
1463 compared to actual expenditures.~~†~~ and

1464 4. The identity of each small ~~or minority~~ business used as  
1465 a contractor or subcontractor.

1466 **Section 32. Subsections (3) and (7) of section 339.651,**  
1467 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1468 339.651 Strategic Intermodal System supply chain demands.—

1469 (3) The department may ~~shall~~ make up to \$20 million  
1470 available each year ~~for fiscal years 2023-2024 through 2027-~~  
1471 ~~2028,~~ from the existing work program ~~revenues,~~ to fund projects  
1472 that meet the public purpose of providing increased capacity and  
1473 enhanced capabilities to move and store construction aggregate  
1474 and transportation infrastructure-related materials. Applicants  
1475 eligible for project funding under this section are seaports

1476 listed in s. 311.09 and rail lines and rail facilities.

1477 ~~(7) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2028.~~

1478 **Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section**  
1479 **341.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1480 341.051 Administration and financing of public transit and  
1481 intercity bus service programs and projects.—

1482 (6) ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.—

1483 (b) If funds are allocated to projects that qualify for  
1484 the New Starts Transit Program in the current fiscal year and a  
1485 project will not be ready for production by June 30, the  
1486 department must reallocate such funds for the purpose of the  
1487 Strategic Intermodal System within the State Transportation  
1488 Trust Fund for the next fiscal year ~~The remaining unallocated~~  
1489 ~~New Starts Transit Program funds as of June 30, 2024, shall be~~  
1490 ~~reallocated for the purpose of the Strategic Intermodal System~~  
1491 ~~within the State Transportation Trust Fund. This paragraph~~  
1492 ~~expires June 30, 2026.~~

1493  
1494 For purposes of this section, the term "net operating costs"  
1495 means all operating costs of a project less any federal funds,  
1496 fares, or other sources of income to the project.

1497 **Section 34. Subsection (5) of section 348.754, Florida**  
1498 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1499 348.754 Purposes and powers.—

1500 (5) The authority shall encourage the inclusion of local

1501 ~~and small, small, minority, and women-owned~~ businesses in its  
1502 procurement and contracting opportunities.

1503 **Section 35. Subsection (2) of section 349.03, Florida**  
1504 **Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that**  
1505 **section, to read:**

1506 349.03 Jacksonville Transportation Authority.—

1507 (2) The governing body of the authority shall be composed  
1508 ~~consist~~ of seven members. Four ~~Three~~ members shall be appointed  
1509 by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Of the four members  
1510 appointed by the Governor, one member must be a resident of the  
1511 City of Jacksonville and the remaining three members must be  
1512 residents of Clay County, St. Johns County, or Nassau County.  
1513 Three members shall be appointed by the mayor of the City of  
1514 Jacksonville subject to confirmation by the council of the City  
1515 of Jacksonville. All ~~The seventh member shall be the district~~  
1516 ~~secretary of the Department of Transportation serving in the~~  
1517 ~~district that contains the City of Jacksonville. Except for the~~  
1518 ~~seventh member,~~ members appointed by the mayor of the City of  
1519 Jacksonville must ~~shall~~ be residents and qualified electors of  
1520 Duval County.

1521 (4) The authority shall:

1522 (a) Follow the department's small business program as  
1523 described in s. 337.027.

1524 (b) Establish protocols and systems in accordance with the  
1525 requirements established in s. 112.061(16) and s. 215.985(6) and

1526 (14) and post all related information on its publicly available  
1527 website.

1528 **Section 36. Subsection (5) of section 479.106, Florida**  
1529 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1530 479.106 Vegetation management.—

1531 (5) The department may only grant a permit pursuant to s.  
1532 479.07 for a new sign that requires the removal, cutting, or  
1533 trimming of existing trees or vegetation on public right-of-way  
1534 for the sign face to be visible from the highway to which the  
1535 sign will be permitted if when the sign owner is in compliance  
1536 with all applicable vegetation management plans or contributes  
1537 to a mitigation plan required by the department under subsection  
1538 (3) and has agreed, as a condition of the permit, to comply with  
1539 a vegetation management plan or to contribute to a plan of  
1540 mitigation approved by the department ~~has removed at least two~~  
1541 ~~nonconforming signs of approximate comparable size and~~  
1542 ~~surrendered the permits for the nonconforming signs to the~~  
1543 ~~department for cancellation. For signs originally permitted~~  
1544 ~~after July 1, 1996, the first application, or application for a~~  
1545 ~~change of view zone, for the removal, cutting, or trimming of~~  
1546 ~~trees or vegetation along the highway to which the sign is~~  
1547 ~~permitted shall require the removal of two nonconforming signs,~~  
1548 ~~in addition to mitigation or contribution to a plan of~~  
1549 ~~mitigation.~~ The department may not grant a permit for the  
1550 removal, cutting, or trimming of trees for a sign permitted

after July 1, 1996, if the trees are or the vegetation is part of a beautification project implemented before the date of the original sign permit application and if the beautification project is specifically identified in the department's construction plans, permitted landscape projects, or agreements.

**Section 37.** Sections 316.0741, 331.351, 337.125, 337.135, 337.139, 339.0805, and 339.287, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

**Section 38. Paragraphs (j) and (m) of subsection (2) of section 110.205, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

110.205 Career service; exemptions.—

(2) EXEMPT POSITIONS.—The exempt positions that are not covered by this part include the following:

(j) The appointed secretaries and the State Surgeon General, assistant secretaries, deputy secretaries, and deputy assistant secretaries of all departments; the executive directors, assistant executive directors, deputy executive directors, and deputy assistant executive directors of all departments; the directors of all divisions and those positions determined by the department to have managerial responsibilities comparable to such positions, which positions include, but are not limited to, program directors, assistant program directors, district administrators, deputy district administrators, the Director of Central Operations Services of the Department of Children and Families, the State Transportation Development Administrator, the State Public Transportation and Modal

1576 Administrator, district secretaries, district directors of  
1577 transportation development, transportation operations,  
1578 transportation support, and the managers of the offices of the  
1579 Department of Transportation specified in s. 20.23(4)(b) ~~s.~~  
1580 ~~20.23(3)(b)~~. Unless otherwise fixed by law, the department shall  
1581 set the salary and benefits of these positions and the positions  
1582 of county health department directors and county health  
1583 department administrators of the Department of Health in  
1584 accordance with the rules of the Senior Management Service.

1585 (m) All assistant division director, deputy division  
1586 director, and bureau chief positions in any department, and  
1587 those positions determined by the department to have managerial  
1588 responsibilities comparable to such positions, which include,  
1589 but are not limited to:

1590 1. Positions in the Department of Health and the  
1591 Department of Children and Families which are assigned primary  
1592 duties of serving as the superintendent or assistant  
1593 superintendent of an institution.

1594 2. Positions in the Department of Corrections which are  
1595 assigned primary duties of serving as the warden, assistant  
1596 warden, colonel, or major of an institution or that are assigned  
1597 primary duties of serving as the circuit administrator or deputy  
1598 circuit administrator.

1599 3. Positions in the Department of Transportation which are  
1600 assigned primary duties of serving as regional toll managers and

managers of offices, as specified in s. 20.23(4)(b) and (5)(c)  
~~s. 20.23(3)(b) and (4)(c).~~

4. Positions in the Department of Environmental Protection which are assigned the duty of an Environmental Administrator or program administrator.

5. Positions in the Department of Health which are assigned the duties of Environmental Administrator, Assistant County Health Department Director, and County Health Department Financial Administrator.

6. Positions in the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles which are assigned primary duties of serving as captains in the Florida Highway Patrol.

Unless otherwise fixed by law, the department shall set the salary and benefits of the positions listed in this paragraph in accordance with the rules established for the Selected Exempt Service.

**Section 39. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 322.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

322.27 Authority of department to suspend or revoke driver license or identification card.—

(3) There is established a point system for evaluation of convictions of violations of motor vehicle laws or ordinances, and violations of applicable provisions of s. 403.413(6)(b) when such violations involve the use of motor vehicles, for the

determination of the continuing qualification of any person to operate a motor vehicle. The department is authorized to suspend the license of any person upon showing of its records or other good and sufficient evidence that the licensee has been convicted of violation of motor vehicle laws or ordinances, or applicable provisions of s. 403.413(6)(b), amounting to 12 or more points as determined by the point system. The suspension shall be for a period of not more than 1 year.

(d) The point system shall have as its basic element a graduated scale of points assigning relative values to convictions of the following violations:

1. Reckless driving, willful and wanton—4 points.
2. Leaving the scene of a crash resulting in property damage of more than \$50—6 points.
3. Unlawful speed, or unlawful use of a wireless communications device, resulting in a crash—6 points.
4. Passing a stopped school bus:
  - a. Not causing or resulting in serious bodily injury to or death of another—4 points.
  - b. Causing or resulting in serious bodily injury to or death of another—6 points.
  - c. Points may not be imposed for a violation of passing a stopped school bus as provided in s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) when enforced by a school bus infraction detection system pursuant to s. 316.173. In addition, a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b)

when enforced by a school bus infraction detection system pursuant to s. 316.173 may not be used for purposes of setting motor vehicle insurance rates.

5. Unlawful speed:

a. Not in excess of 15 miles per hour of lawful or posted speed—3 points.

b. In excess of 15 miles per hour of lawful or posted speed—4 points.

c. Points may not be imposed for a violation of unlawful speed as provided in s. 316.1895 or s. 316.183 when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer pursuant to s. 316.1896. In addition, a violation of s. 316.1895 or s. 316.183 when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer pursuant to s. 316.1896 may not be used for purposes of setting motor vehicle insurance rates.

6. A violation of a traffic control signal device as provided in s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1.—4 points. However, points may not be imposed for a violation of s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1. when a driver has failed to stop at a traffic signal and when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer. In addition, a violation of s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1. when a driver has failed to stop at a traffic signal and when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer may not be used for purposes of setting motor vehicle insurance rates.

7. Unlawfully driving a vehicle through a railroad-highway grade crossing—6 points.

8. All other moving violations (including parking on a highway outside the limits of a municipality)—3 points. However, points may not be imposed for a violation of ~~s. 316.0741~~ or s. 316.2065(11); and points may be imposed for a violation of s. 316.1001 only when imposed by the court after a hearing pursuant to s. 318.14(5).

9. Any moving violation covered in this paragraph, excluding unlawful speed and unlawful use of a wireless communications device, resulting in a crash—4 points.

10. Any conviction under s. 403.413(6)(b)—3 points.

11. Any conviction under s. 316.0775(2)—4 points.

12. A moving violation covered in this paragraph which is committed in conjunction with the unlawful use of a wireless communications device within a school safety zone—2 points, in addition to the points assigned for the moving violation.

**Section 40. Subsection (13) of section 365.172, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

365.172 Emergency communications.—

(13) FACILITATING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION.—To balance the public need for reliable emergency communications services through reliable wireless systems and the public interest served by governmental zoning and land development regulations and notwithstanding any other

1701 law or local ordinance to the contrary, the following standards  
1702 shall apply to a local government's actions, as a regulatory  
1703 body, in the regulation of the placement, construction, or  
1704 modification of a wireless communications facility. This  
1705 subsection may not, however, be construed to waive or alter the  
1706 provisions of s. 286.011 or s. 286.0115. For the purposes of  
1707 this subsection only, "local government" shall mean any  
1708 municipality or county and any agency of a municipality or  
1709 county only. The term "local government" does not, however,  
1710 include any airport, as defined in s. 330.27 ~~by s. 330.27(2)~~,  
1711 even if it is owned or controlled by or through a municipality,  
1712 county, or agency of a municipality or county. Further,  
1713 notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, this  
1714 subsection does not apply to or control a local government's  
1715 actions as a property or structure owner in the use of any  
1716 property or structure owned by such entity for the placement,  
1717 construction, or modification of wireless communications  
1718 facilities. In the use of property or structures owned by the  
1719 local government, however, a local government may not use its  
1720 regulatory authority so as to avoid compliance with, or in a  
1721 manner that does not advance, the provisions of this subsection.

1722 (a) Colocation among wireless providers is encouraged by  
1723 the state.

1724 1.a. Colocations on towers, including nonconforming  
1725 towers, that meet the requirements in sub-sub-subparagraphs (I),

1726 (II), and (III), are subject to only building permit review,  
1727 which may include a review for compliance with this  
1728 subparagraph. Such colocations are not subject to any design or  
1729 placement requirements of the local government's land  
1730 development regulations in effect at the time of the colocation  
1731 that are more restrictive than those in effect at the time of  
1732 the initial antennae placement approval, to any other portion of  
1733 the land development regulations, or to public hearing review.  
1734 This sub-subparagraph may not preclude a public hearing for any  
1735 appeal of the decision on the colocation application.

1736 (I) The colocation does not increase the height of the  
1737 tower to which the antennae are to be attached, measured to the  
1738 highest point of any part of the tower or any existing antenna  
1739 attached to the tower;

1740 (II) The colocation does not increase the ground space  
1741 area, commonly known as the compound, approved in the site plan  
1742 for equipment enclosures and ancillary facilities; and

1743 (III) The colocation consists of antennae, equipment  
1744 enclosures, and ancillary facilities that are of a design and  
1745 configuration consistent with all applicable regulations,  
1746 restrictions, or conditions, if any, applied to the initial  
1747 antennae placed on the tower and to its accompanying equipment  
1748 enclosures and ancillary facilities and, if applicable, applied  
1749 to the tower supporting the antennae. Such regulations may  
1750 include the design and aesthetic requirements, but not

1751 procedural requirements, other than those authorized by this  
1752 section, of the local government's land development regulations  
1753 in effect at the time the initial antennae placement was  
1754 approved.

1755       b. Except for a historic building, structure, site,  
1756 object, or district, or a tower included in sub-subparagraph a.,  
1757 colocations on all other existing structures that meet the  
1758 requirements in sub-sub-subparagraphs (I)-(IV) shall be subject  
1759 to no more than building permit review, and an administrative  
1760 review for compliance with this subparagraph. Such colocations  
1761 are not subject to any portion of the local government's land  
1762 development regulations not addressed herein, or to public  
1763 hearing review. This sub-subparagraph may not preclude a public  
1764 hearing for any appeal of the decision on the colocation  
1765 application.

1766       (I) The colocation does not increase the height of the  
1767 existing structure to which the antennae are to be attached,  
1768 measured to the highest point of any part of the structure or  
1769 any existing antenna attached to the structure;

1770       (II) The colocation does not increase the ground space  
1771 area, otherwise known as the compound, if any, approved in the  
1772 site plan for equipment enclosures and ancillary facilities;

1773       (III) The colocation consists of antennae, equipment  
1774 enclosures, and ancillary facilities that are of a design and  
1775 configuration consistent with any applicable structural or

1776 aesthetic design requirements and any requirements for location  
1777 on the structure, but not prohibitions or restrictions on the  
1778 placement of additional colocations on the existing structure or  
1779 procedural requirements, other than those authorized by this  
1780 section, of the local government's land development regulations  
1781 in effect at the time of the colocation application; and

1782       (IV) The colocation consists of antennae, equipment  
1783 enclosures, and ancillary facilities that are of a design and  
1784 configuration consistent with all applicable restrictions or  
1785 conditions, if any, that do not conflict with sub-sub-  
1786 subparagraph (III) and were applied to the initial antennae  
1787 placed on the structure and to its accompanying equipment  
1788 enclosures and ancillary facilities and, if applicable, applied  
1789 to the structure supporting the antennae.

1790       c. Regulations, restrictions, conditions, or permits of  
1791 the local government, acting in its regulatory capacity, that  
1792 limit the number of colocations or require review processes  
1793 inconsistent with this subsection do not apply to colocations  
1794 addressed in this subparagraph.

1795       d. If only a portion of the colocation does not meet the  
1796 requirements of this subparagraph, such as an increase in the  
1797 height of the proposed antennae over the existing structure  
1798 height or a proposal to expand the ground space approved in the  
1799 site plan for the equipment enclosure, where all other portions  
1800 of the colocation meet the requirements of this subparagraph,

1801 that portion of the colocation only may be reviewed under the  
1802 local government's regulations applicable to an initial  
1803 placement of that portion of the facility, including, but not  
1804 limited to, its land development regulations, and within the  
1805 review timeframes of subparagraph (d)2., and the rest of the  
1806 colocation shall be reviewed in accordance with this  
1807 subparagraph. A colocation proposal under this subparagraph that  
1808 increases the ground space area, otherwise known as the  
1809 compound, approved in the original site plan for equipment  
1810 enclosures and ancillary facilities by no more than a cumulative  
1811 amount of 400 square feet or 50 percent of the original compound  
1812 size, whichever is greater, shall, however, require no more than  
1813 administrative review for compliance with the local government's  
1814 regulations, including, but not limited to, land development  
1815 regulations review, and building permit review, with no public  
1816 hearing review. This sub-subparagraph does not preclude a public  
1817 hearing for any appeal of the decision on the colocation  
1818 application.

1819       2. If a colocation does not meet the requirements of  
1820 subparagraph 1., the local government may review the application  
1821 under the local government's regulations, including, but not  
1822 limited to, land development regulations, applicable to the  
1823 placement of initial antennae and their accompanying equipment  
1824 enclosure and ancillary facilities.

1825       3. If a colocation meets the requirements of subparagraph

1826 1., the colocation may not be considered a modification to an  
1827 existing structure or an impermissible modification of a  
1828 nonconforming structure.

1829 4. The owner of the existing tower on which the proposed  
1830 antennae are to be colocated shall remain responsible for  
1831 compliance with any applicable condition or requirement of a  
1832 permit or agreement, or any applicable condition or requirement  
1833 of the land development regulations to which the existing tower  
1834 had to comply at the time the tower was permitted, including any  
1835 aesthetic requirements, provided the condition or requirement is  
1836 not inconsistent with this paragraph.

1837 5. An existing tower, including a nonconforming tower, may  
1838 be structurally modified in order to permit colocation or may be  
1839 replaced through no more than administrative review and building  
1840 permit review, and is not subject to public hearing review, if  
1841 the overall height of the tower is not increased and, if a  
1842 replacement, the replacement tower is a monopole tower or, if  
1843 the existing tower is a camouflaged tower, the replacement tower  
1844 is a like-camouflaged tower. This subparagraph may not preclude  
1845 a public hearing for any appeal of the decision on the  
1846 application.

1847 (b)1. A local government's land development and  
1848 construction regulations for wireless communications facilities  
1849 and the local government's review of an application for the  
1850 placement, construction, or modification of a wireless

1851 | communications facility shall only address land development or  
1852 | zoning issues. In such local government regulations or review,  
1853 | the local government may not require information on or evaluate  
1854 | a wireless provider's business decisions about its service,  
1855 | customer demand for its service, or quality of its service to or  
1856 | from a particular area or site, unless the wireless provider  
1857 | voluntarily offers this information to the local government. In  
1858 | such local government regulations or review, a local government  
1859 | may not require information on or evaluate the wireless  
1860 | provider's designed service unless the information or materials  
1861 | are directly related to an identified land development or zoning  
1862 | issue or unless the wireless provider voluntarily offers the  
1863 | information. Information or materials directly related to an  
1864 | identified land development or zoning issue may include, but are  
1865 | not limited to, evidence that no existing structure can  
1866 | reasonably be used for the antennae placement instead of the  
1867 | construction of a new tower, that residential areas cannot be  
1868 | served from outside the residential area, as addressed in  
1869 | subparagraph 3., or that the proposed height of a new tower or  
1870 | initial antennae placement or a proposed height increase of a  
1871 | modified tower, replacement tower, or colocation is necessary to  
1872 | provide the provider's designed service. Nothing in this  
1873 | paragraph shall limit the local government from reviewing any  
1874 | applicable land development or zoning issue addressed in its  
1875 | adopted regulations that does not conflict with this section,

1876 including, but not limited to, aesthetics, landscaping, land  
1877 use-based location priorities, structural design, and setbacks.

1878       2. Any setback or distance separation required of a tower  
1879 may not exceed the minimum distance necessary, as determined by  
1880 the local government, to satisfy the structural safety or  
1881 aesthetic concerns that are to be protected by the setback or  
1882 distance separation.

1883       3. A local government may exclude the placement of  
1884 wireless communications facilities in a residential area or  
1885 residential zoning district but only in a manner that does not  
1886 constitute an actual or effective prohibition of the provider's  
1887 service in that residential area or zoning district. If a  
1888 wireless provider demonstrates to the satisfaction of the local  
1889 government that the provider cannot reasonably provide its  
1890 service to the residential area or zone from outside the  
1891 residential area or zone, the municipality or county and  
1892 provider shall cooperate to determine an appropriate location  
1893 for a wireless communications facility of an appropriate design  
1894 within the residential area or zone. The local government may  
1895 require that the wireless provider reimburse the reasonable  
1896 costs incurred by the local government for this cooperative  
1897 determination. An application for such cooperative determination  
1898 may not be considered an application under paragraph (d).

1899       4. A local government may impose a reasonable fee on  
1900 applications to place, construct, or modify a wireless

communications facility only if a similar fee is imposed on applicants seeking other similar types of zoning, land use, or building permit review. A local government may impose fees for the review of applications for wireless communications facilities by consultants or experts who conduct code compliance review for the local government but any fee is limited to specifically identified reasonable expenses incurred in the review. A local government may impose reasonable surety requirements to ensure the removal of wireless communications facilities that are no longer being used.

5. A local government may impose design requirements, such as requirements for designing towers to support colocation or aesthetic requirements, except as otherwise limited in this section, but may not impose or require information on compliance with building code type standards for the construction or modification of wireless communications facilities beyond those adopted by the local government under chapter 553 and that apply to all similar types of construction.

(c) Local governments may not require wireless providers to provide evidence of a wireless communications facility's compliance with federal regulations, except evidence of compliance with applicable Federal Aviation Administration requirements under 14 C.F.R. part 77, as amended, and evidence of proper Federal Communications Commission licensure, or other evidence of Federal Communications Commission authorized

spectrum use, but may request the Federal Communications Commission to provide information as to a wireless provider's compliance with federal regulations, as authorized by federal law.

(d)1. A local government shall grant or deny each properly completed application for a colocation under subparagraph (a)1. based on the application's compliance with the local government's applicable regulations, as provided for in subparagraph (a)1. and consistent with this subsection, and within the normal timeframe for a similar building permit review but in no case later than 45 business days after the date the application is determined to be properly completed in accordance with this paragraph.

2. A local government shall grant or deny each properly completed application for any other wireless communications facility based on the application's compliance with the local government's applicable regulations, including but not limited to land development regulations, consistent with this subsection and within the normal timeframe for a similar type review but in no case later than 90 business days after the date the application is determined to be properly completed in accordance with this paragraph.

3.a. An application is deemed submitted or resubmitted on the date the application is received by the local government. If the local government does not notify the applicant in writing

1951 that the application is not completed in compliance with the  
1952 local government's regulations within 20 business days after the  
1953 date the application is initially submitted or additional  
1954 information resubmitted, the application is deemed, for  
1955 administrative purposes only, to be properly completed and  
1956 properly submitted. However, the determination may not be deemed  
1957 as an approval of the application. If the application is not  
1958 completed in compliance with the local government's regulations,  
1959 the local government shall so notify the applicant in writing  
1960 and the notification must indicate with specificity any  
1961 deficiencies in the required documents or deficiencies in the  
1962 content of the required documents which, if cured, make the  
1963 application properly completed. Upon resubmission of information  
1964 to cure the stated deficiencies, the local government shall  
1965 notify the applicant, in writing, within the normal timeframes  
1966 of review, but in no case longer than 20 business days after the  
1967 additional information is submitted, of any remaining  
1968 deficiencies that must be cured. Deficiencies in document type  
1969 or content not specified by the local government do not make the  
1970 application incomplete. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph,  
1971 if a specified deficiency is not properly cured when the  
1972 applicant resubmits its application to comply with the notice of  
1973 deficiencies, the local government may continue to request the  
1974 information until such time as the specified deficiency is  
1975 cured. The local government may establish reasonable timeframes

1976 within which the required information to cure the application  
1977 deficiency is to be provided or the application will be  
1978 considered withdrawn or closed.

1979       b. If the local government fails to grant or deny a  
1980 properly completed application for a wireless communications  
1981 facility within the timeframes set forth in this paragraph, the  
1982 application shall be deemed automatically approved and the  
1983 applicant may proceed with placement of the facilities without  
1984 interference or penalty. The timeframes specified in  
1985 subparagraph 2. may be extended only to the extent that the  
1986 application has not been granted or denied because the local  
1987 government's procedures generally applicable to all other  
1988 similar types of applications require action by the governing  
1989 body and such action has not taken place within the timeframes  
1990 specified in subparagraph 2. Under such circumstances, the local  
1991 government must act to either grant or deny the application at  
1992 its next regularly scheduled meeting or, otherwise, the  
1993 application is deemed to be automatically approved.

1994       c. To be effective, a waiver of the timeframes set forth  
1995 in this paragraph must be voluntarily agreed to by the applicant  
1996 and the local government. A local government may request, but  
1997 not require, a waiver of the timeframes by the applicant, except  
1998 that, with respect to a specific application, a one-time waiver  
1999 may be required in the case of a declared local, state, or  
2000 federal emergency that directly affects the administration of

all permitting activities of the local government.

(e) The replacement of or modification to a wireless communications facility, except a tower, that results in a wireless communications facility not readily discernibly different in size, type, and appearance when viewed from ground level from surrounding properties, and the replacement or modification of equipment that is not visible from surrounding properties, all as reasonably determined by the local government, are subject to no more than applicable building permit review.

(f) Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the Department of Management Services shall negotiate, in the name of the state, leases for wireless communications facilities that provide access to state government-owned property not acquired for transportation purposes, and the Department of Transportation shall negotiate, in the name of the state, leases for wireless communications facilities that provide access to property acquired for state rights-of-way. On property acquired for transportation purposes, leases shall be granted in accordance with s. 337.251. On other state government-owned property, leases shall be granted on a space available, first-come, first-served basis. Payments required by state government under a lease must be reasonable and must reflect the market rate for the use of the state government-owned property. The Department of Management Services and the Department of

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Transportation are authorized to adopt rules for the terms and conditions and granting of any such leases.

(g) If any person adversely affected by any action, or failure to act, or regulation, or requirement of a local government in the review or regulation of the wireless communication facilities files an appeal or brings an appropriate action in a court or venue of competent jurisdiction, following the exhaustion of all administrative remedies, the matter shall be considered on an expedited basis.

**Section 41. Subsection (2) of section 379.2293, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

379.2293 Airport activities within the scope of a federally approved wildlife hazard management plan or a federal or state permit or other authorization for depredation or harassment.—

(2) An airport authority or other entity owning or operating an airport, as defined in s. 330.27 ~~s. 330.27(2)~~, is not subject to any administrative or civil penalty, restriction, or other sanction with respect to any authorized action taken in a non-negligent manner for the purpose of protecting human life or aircraft safety from wildlife hazards.

**Section 42. Subsection (22) of section 493.6101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

493.6101 Definitions.—

(22) "Repossession" means the recovery of a motor vehicle

as defined under s. 320.01(1), a mobile home as defined in s. 320.01(2), a motorboat as defined under s. 327.02, an aircraft as defined in s. 330.27 ~~s. 330.27(1)~~, a personal watercraft as defined in s. 327.02, an all-terrain vehicle as defined in s. 316.2074, farm equipment as defined under s. 686.402, or industrial equipment, by an individual who is authorized by the legal owner, lienholder, or lessor to recover, or to collect money payment in lieu of recovery of, that which has been sold or leased under a security agreement that contains a repossession clause. As used in this subsection, the term "industrial equipment" includes, but is not limited to, tractors, road rollers, cranes, forklifts, backhoes, and bulldozers. The term "industrial equipment" also includes other vehicles that are propelled by power other than muscular power and that are used in the manufacture of goods or used in the provision of services. A repossession is complete when a licensed recovery agent is in control, custody, and possession of such repossessed property. Property that is being repossessed shall be considered to be in the control, custody, and possession of a recovery agent if the property being repossessed is secured in preparation for transport from the site of the recovery by means of being attached to or placed on the towing or other transport vehicle or if the property being repossessed is being operated or about to be operated by an employee of the recovery agency.

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**Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 493.6403, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

493.6403 License requirements.—

(1) In addition to the license requirements set forth in this chapter, each individual or agency shall comply with the following additional requirements:

(c) An applicant for a Class "E" license shall have at least 1 year of lawfully gained, verifiable, full-time experience in one, or a combination of more than one, of the following:

1. Repossession of motor vehicles as defined in s. 320.01(1), mobile homes as defined in s. 320.01(2), motorboats as defined in s. 327.02, aircraft as defined in s. 330.27 ~~s. 330.27(1)~~, personal watercraft as defined in s. 327.02, all-terrain vehicles as defined in s. 316.2074, farm equipment as defined under s. 686.402, or industrial equipment as defined in s. 493.6101(22).

2. Work as a Class "EE" licensed intern.

**Section 44.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.