

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to identification cards for public
3 works employees; requiring the Office of Program
4 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to
5 produce a report on how the state could provide an
6 identification card for public works employees
7 identifying them as first responders; providing
8 requirements for the report; providing an effective
9 date.

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11 WHEREAS, public works employees support the operation,
12 inspection, and maintenance of essential public works facilities
13 and operations, including bridges, water and sewer main breaks,
14 fleet maintenance, construction of critical and strategic
15 infrastructure, traffic signals, emergency location services for
16 buried utilities, digital systems infrastructure supporting
17 public works operations, and other emergent issues, and

18 WHEREAS, workers such as plumbers, electricians,
19 exterminators, builders, contractors, HVAC technicians,
20 landscapers, pool care service providers, and other service
21 providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining
22 the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences,
23 businesses, and buildings such as hospitals, senior living
24 facilities, and temporary construction required to support the
25 COVID-19 response, and

26 WHEREAS, public works employees engage in essential tasks
27 after emergencies, such as road and line clearing, to ensure the
28 availability of and access to needed facilities, transportation,
29 energy, and communications, and

30 WHEREAS, public works employees ensure the effective
31 removal, storage, and disposal of residential and commercial
32 solid waste and hazardous waste, including landfill operations,
33 and

34 WHEREAS, public works employees ensure the operation,
35 inspection, and maintenance of essential dams, locks, and
36 levees, and

37 WHEREAS, workers who support the inspection and maintenance
38 of aids to navigation provide services that ensure continued
39 maritime commerce, and

40 WHEREAS, in 2003, President George W. Bush issued
41 Presidential Policy Directive 8 officially, recognizing public
42 works employees as first responders, and

43 WHEREAS, in 2017, the American Public Works Association's
44 board of directors approved the adoption of a national "Public
45 Works First Responder" symbol for use throughout North America
46 to identify public works personnel and acknowledge their
47 federally mandated role as first responders, and

48 WHEREAS, public works employees were designated as
49 essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, NOW, THEREFORE,
50

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

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53 **Section 1.** The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
54 Government Accountability shall, no later than January 1, 2026,
55 produce a report on how the state could best implement a state-
56 issued identification card for public works employees that would
57 identify them as first responders. The report shall be provided
58 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
59 the House of Representatives. The report shall consider the
60 feasibility of the card, including the national Public Works
61 First Responder symbol developed by the American Public Works
62 Association.

63 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.