

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 931

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Pinellas County

**SPONSOR(S):** Farkas

**TIED BILLS:**

**IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 2236

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<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ANALYST</b>	<b>STAFF DIRECTOR</b>
1) <u>Local Government Council</u>	<u>8 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Hamby</u>
2) <u>Transportation Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u>Pugh</u>	<u>Miller</u>
3) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (the Authority) provides public transit services in the Pinellas County area funded by ad valorem revenues. It has an 11-member board appointed by local government officials within Pinellas County.

HB 931 adds four members to the Authority. The new members include: one additional member appointed by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg and who serves on the Council, and three additional members appointed by the Pinellas County Commission from among the commissioners. The bill provides that the member appointed by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg will serve an initial three year term; additional members appointed by the Pinellas County Commission will serve an initial three year term for one member, an initial two year term for another member, and an initial one year term for the third member.

According to the Economic Impact Statement, no fiscal impacts are anticipated for either fiscal year 2006-07 or 2007-08.

HB 931 takes effect upon becoming law.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

HB 931 does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### Present Situation

The Central Pinellas Transit Authority was created in 1970 by ch. 70-907, Laws of Florida (L.O.F.). Its name was changed to the "Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority" by ch. 82-368, L.O.F. The Authority was created to provide public transit services in the Pinellas County area. The Authority has an annual total operating budget of \$48.3 million. Its ad valorem millage rate is 0.6377 mill, and its millage cap is 0.75 mill.

The Authority is the public transit provider in Pinellas County, operating 180 buses and trolleys that serve 43 routes. In addition, two express buses travel between Pinellas County and Tampa, and the Suncoast Beach Trolley connects the Gulf Beaches from Clearwater Beach to Pass-a-Grille. During fiscal year 2004-05 the Authority transported 10,481,997 passengers.<sup>1</sup>

The Authority has 11 members, comprised of:

- One member each appointed by the Clearwater City Commission, Dunedin City Commission, Largo City Commission, Pinellas Park City Council, and the St. Petersburg City Council from their memberships.
- One member appointed by the combined municipal governing bodies of the cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and Tarpon Springs from their membership.
- One member appointed by the combined municipal governing bodies of the cities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, and South Pasadena from their membership.
- One member appointed by the combined municipal governing bodies of the cities of Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St. Petersburg Beach, and Treasure Island from their membership.
- One member appointed by the Pinellas County Commission from its membership.
- One member who is not an elected official appointed by the Pinellas County
- One member who is not an elected official appointed by the St. Petersburg City Council.

Terms are three years, and an Authority member may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

##### Effect of Proposed Changes

HB 931 adds four members to the Authority to include one additional member appointed by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg from its membership, and three additional members appointed by the Pinellas County Commission from its membership.

The bill provides that the new member appointed by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg will serve an initial three year term, and the three additional members appointed by the Pinellas County Commission will serve staggered one-year, two-year, and three-year terms.

Bill supporters say they want to add additional members, particularly the three Pinellas County commissioners, so that the county will have a fairer representation on the Authority and provide greater impact on the Authority's decisions.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.psta.net/pstahistory.htm>.

HB 931 takes effect upon becoming law.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends subsection (2) of s. 3 of s. 1 of ch. 2000-424, L.O.F., providing for four additional members to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; provides for the appointment of the additional members.

Section 2. Provides for the staggering initial terms for the additional members.

Section 3. Provides a severability clause.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of upon becoming law.

**II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN? December 30, 2005.

WHERE? *Pinellas News*, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached  No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached  No

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES: None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY: None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS: None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES**

None.