

2009-B Special Session

Summary of Legislation Passed



*Compiled and Edited by
Office of the Senate Secretary*

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HB 1-B — Transportation

by Economic Development and Community Affairs Policy Council and Rep. Aubuchon (SB 2-B by Senators Ring, Constantine, Fasano, Gaetz, Gardiner, Lawson, Negron, Diaz de la Portilla, Thrasher, Altman, Haridopolos, Richter, and Wise)

Generally, this bill provides a statutory framework for enhancing the consideration of passenger rail as a modal choice in the development and operation of Florida's transportation network. Essentially, the bill:

- Creates a Florida Rail Enterprise (enterprise), modeled after the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, to coordinate the development and operation of passenger rail services statewide, including high-speed rail.
- Establishes a Statewide Passenger Rail Commission to monitor, advise, and review publicly-funded passenger rail systems.
- Creates dedicated funding sources for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) and for future passenger rail development and operations, and revises funding levels and duration for operating costs.
- Revises, beginning in 2014, the documentary stamp tax revenues that are allocated among the Small County Outreach Program, the Transportation Regional Incentive Program, and the Strategic Intermodal System.
- Requires the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to identify and address the impacts of freight rail traffic changes resulting from passenger rail activities.
- Grants DOT the authority to contractually indemnify freight rail operators from whom DOT acquires a real property interest in a rail corridor in certain circumstances.
- Authorizes DOT to purchase insurance and establish a self-retention fund to insure against liability risks.
- Allows for an escrowed closing of the Central Florida Rail Corridor contingent upon the receipt of certain federal funds; and revises definitions and deletes obsolete provisions relating to DOT's rail system program.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 27-10; House 84-25