

CHAPTER 2010-212

Senate Bill No. 2470

An act relating to regional transportation; creating the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study Commission; providing for membership and organization; providing for reimbursement of expenses; providing for removal and suspension of commission members; providing for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to staff the commission; providing for funding of the commission; providing that the costs of staffing and the amount of funding are determined by the board of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority; providing for committees within the commission; providing for commission meetings; providing for the commission to make available to the public its meeting minutes, reports, and recommendations and publish its reports and recommendations electronically; directing the authority to make its Internet site available for such purposes; requiring the commission to submit reports to the Governor and the Legislature; providing that a county's membership in the commission and participation of a county's appointees does not constitute consent of the county to inclusion within the jurisdiction of a regional transportation authority; providing for expiration and termination of the commission; amending s. 8, ch. 2009-89, Laws of Florida; revising the due date for the Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization to complete a study and make recommendations to the Legislature concerning advance-funding the costs of capacity projects in its member counties; providing for funding of the study; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Bill 1213, 2009, the Department of Transportation directed the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to prepare a report to recommend to the Legislature the framework for a regional transportation authority for the northeast region of the state comprised of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties, and

WHEREAS, the report was completed and received by the Legislature on February 1, 2010, and

WHEREAS, based upon the recommendations of the report, it is necessary and appropriate to create a study commission to continue the work commenced, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study Commission.—

(1) There is created the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study Commission, which shall be composed of 20 members designated and to be appointed as follows:

(a) Two citizens of Baker County appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Baker County.

(b) Two citizens of Clay County appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County.

(c) Four citizens of Duval County appointed by the City Council of the City of Jacksonville.

(d) Two citizens of Flagler County appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County.

(e) Two citizens of Nassau County appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County.

(f) Two citizens of Putnam County appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County.

(g) Two citizens of St. Johns County appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County.

(h) The chair of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, who shall serve as chair of the commission.

(i) The Department of Transportation's district secretary serving in district II, who shall be a nonvoting member of the commission.

(j) The chair of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, who shall be a nonvoting member of the commission.

(k) The chair of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, who shall be a nonvoting member of the commission.

(2)(a) Members shall serve until the work of the commission is completed and the commission is terminated, except that persons serving under paragraphs (1)(h)-(k) shall cease membership if they no longer serve in the position indicated in paragraphs (1)(h)-(k) and shall be replaced by the person replacing them in such position.

(b) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses in the performance of their duties, including travel expenses, in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

(c) A county commission, or the city council in the case of Duval County, may remove or suspend a member appointed by it for cause, including, but not limited to, failure to attend two or more meetings of the commission during any 9-month period.

(3) The staff of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority shall act as staff to the commission and, subject to the appropriation of funding by the board of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and such other funds as

the commission may receive, shall supply such information, assistance, and facilities as are deemed necessary for the commission to carry out its duties under this act.

(4) The commission shall have such committees with such membership, duties, and other matters as the chair shall determine. Members of such committees need not be members of the commission and may include persons from airport authorities, port authorities, rail or other transportation industries, and others. All committees shall report to the commission at each commission meeting and shall present their final reports for consideration by the commission in accordance with the direction of the chair.

(5)(a) The commission shall meet at the times and locations as the chair shall determine. There shall be regular monthly meetings, to the extent reasonably convenient, that are held in one or more central locations; however, at least one meeting must be held in each of the counties throughout the region. Each meeting must include provision for public comments.

(b) The commission shall make available to the public its meeting minutes, reports, and recommendations upon request and, to the extent feasible, shall publish its reports and recommendations electronically. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority shall make its Internet website available to the commission for such purposes.

(6) By December 31, 2012, the commission shall prepare and submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report detailing its findings and making specific legislative recommendations, including a regional transportation elements plan, the defining characteristics of transportation elements of regional significance, and an implementation plan for undertaking a regional transportation elements plan, and which may include the establishment of the regional transportation authority, draft legislation consistent with this section, and any other recommendations it deems appropriate.

(7) A county's membership in the commission, and the participation of a county's appointees in the work of the commission, is not intended to constitute the consent of the county to inclusion within the jurisdiction of a regional transportation authority.

(8) This section shall expire and the commission shall terminate upon delivery of the final report required in subsection (6).

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 8 of chapter 2009-89, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 8. (1) The Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization, an interlocal agency under part I of chapter 163, Florida Statutes, is authorized to study the feasibility of advance-funding the costs of capacity projects in its member counties and making recommendations to the

Legislature by February 1, 2011 2010. The Department of Transportation may assist the organization in conducting the study. The study shall be funded by the Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization from its existing resources and by such other funds that may be provided from its constituent counties.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor June 4, 2010.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 4, 2010.