

## CHAPTER 2023-188

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1397

An act relating to regional transportation planning; providing legislative findings and intent; requiring the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of the organizational structure and operation of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority; specifying requirements of the study; requiring the department to submit a specified report to the Governor and Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that, given this state's rapid population growth, effective coordination of transportation planning and service delivery, particularly regional transportation mobility, is critical to the safe and efficient development, management, operation, and maintenance of public transit systems. The Legislature questions whether changes to the organizational structure and governance of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) would result in operational efficiencies and improvements to transit services. It is the intent of the Legislature to explore transformative changes to the policy management structure of HART to achieve organizational efficiencies with the goal of streamlining decisionmaking, improving transparency, and enhancing the effectiveness of local and regional public transit service delivery.

(2) The Department of Transportation, or its consultant, shall conduct a study reviewing aspects of HART's organizational structure and operation, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) The HART charter to evaluate the authority's governance structure, including governing board membership, funding, representation, terms, powers, duties, and responsibilities.

(b) Financial assets and obligations.

(c) Facilities and operations.

(d) Issues, advantages, disadvantages, and actions required regarding the dissolution of HART as an agency and options to continue transit services in Hillsborough County in the absence of HART, including service delivery, funding, and asset management.

(e) Issues, advantages, disadvantages, and actions required regarding collaboration, consolidation, or merger with other transportation service providers in the Tampa Bay region within or adjacent to Hillsborough County, including service delivery, funding, and asset management.

(f) Policies adopted by the HART governing board and the proposal of amendments thereto related to governance, roles, and responsibilities of

governing board officers, the executive administrator or chief executive officer, and the general counsel.

(g) Any other matters deemed necessary or appropriate by the department.

(3) By January 1, 2024, the department shall submit a report detailing the results of the study to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2023.