
HOUSE SUMMARY

Creates the "Transportation, Reform, Accountability and Cooperation Act of 1985." Creates the Florida Transportation Commission composed of seven members to provide planning and policy development as head of the Department of Transportation. Provides for maximum decentralization with respect to the various transportation districts. Provides that the duties of the commission include establishing policies for all transportation matters under the jurisdiction of the department, reviewing the status of the state transportation system and recommending improvements to the Legislature, reviewing and approving the annual program budget, the Florida Transportation Plan and such other plans as may be periodically developed, and reviewing all construction, design and maintenance standards which have been issued by the department. Provides a list of duties which the commission is expressly prohibited from engaging in. Provides for an executive director and provides for his duties and responsibilities.

Provides that one program objective of the Department of Transportation is to provide matching financial assistance to local governments for meeting local transportation needs that improve traffic flow and reduce traffic congestion on the state highway system. Creates the "Local Government Transportation Assistance Act" to provide financial assistance to local governments for projects for construction, reconstruction, and expansion of the state highway system or any county or city road which would improve traffic flow and reduce congestion on the state highway system and for traffic operation improvement projects designed to ensure the efficient use of the state

highway system through improved traffic flow or reduced vehicle congestion. Provides procedures for the award of funds. Increases to 30 years the maximum time period for local-option gas taxes on motor fuel and special fuel.

Creates a Toll Facilities Revolving Trust Fund under the Department of Transportation to assist local governments in funding revenue-producing county and multi-county road projects. Provides restrictions. Provides for rules.

With respect to eminent domain proceedings, provides for a \$100 service charge by the clerk of the circuit court. Modifies procedures for determination of the amount of compensation by a jury. Provides restrictions on the award of attorney's fees and costs, and requires certain recordkeeping. Revises procedures relating to proceedings of the court and to the hearing for the order of taking.

Provides penalties with respect to commercial vehicles operating with an expired registration or no registration. Provides civil penalties with respect to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle in violation of s. 207.004, F.S. (registration of motor carriers; identifying devices; fees; renewals; trip, emergency and annual permits). Provides a delinquent fee schedule for the renewal registration of motor vehicles.

Requires every owner of a commercial motor vehicle which uses special fuel or motor fuel on the public highways and which has a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or has three axles, regardless of weight or is used in combination when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds to meet the liability insurance requirements of the financial responsibility law. Requires owners of such commercial vehicles to provide proof of insurance to the

Department of Revenue upon registration of the vehicle. Authorizes the Department of Revenue to suspend registration of a motor carrier who operates or permits the operation of such a commercial motor vehicle without required insurance.

With respect to tax imposed on sale of motor fuel and special fuel, provides that the tax per gallon for any year shall not be less than that for the previous year.

Authorizes transportation or expressway authorities, or counties, to continue to collect tolls after discharge of the bond indebtedness of a revenue-producing project. Authorizes increase of such tolls. Specifies uses of toll revenues.

Revises current law governing motor carriers to provide for an International Registration Plan which provides for a reciprocal agreement among the states of the United States and the provinces of Canada and for the payment of license fees on the basis of fleet miles operated in various jurisdictions. Provides for apportioned vehicles.

Abolishes the Advanced Construction Interstate Revolving Trust Fund and transfers moneys in the fund to the State Transportation Trust Fund with priority use for the construction of the interstate highway system and allows excess funds to be used for general transportation purposes. See bill for details.