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ORIGINAL

YEAR

26 | have the meanings set forth below:

27 |       (6) "Public transit" means transportation of passengers  
 28 | for hire by means, without limitation, of a ~~street railway,~~  
 29 | ~~elevated railway, subway,~~ motor vehicle, bus, or other means of  
 30 | conveyance operating as a common carrier within the public  
 31 | transit area as provided, and charter service originating  
 32 | therein.

33 |       Section 3. Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; status and  
 34 | governing body.—

35 |       (2) (a) The governing body of the authority shall consist  
 36 | of 11 ~~15~~ members, serving and selected as provided in this  
 37 | paragraph.

38 |       1. Four members shall be appointed by the Pinellas County  
 39 | Board of County Commissioners from their membership. This  
 40 | appointee shall be an elected official.

41 |       2. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of  
 42 | the City of St. Petersburg from their membership. This appointee  
 43 | shall be an elected official.

44 |       3. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of  
 45 | the City of Clearwater from their membership. This appointee  
 46 | shall be an elected official.

47 |       4. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal  
 48 | governing bodies of Tarpon Springs, Safety Harbor, Oldsmar,  
 49 | Dunedin, Belleair, and Belleair Bluffs. This appointee shall be  
 50 | an elected official. The order of rotation shall be determined

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

51 by population size in descending order.

52 5. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal  
 53 governing bodies of Largo, Seminole, South Pasadena, Gulfport,  
 54 Kenneth City, and Pinellas Park. This appointee shall be an  
 55 elected official. The order of rotation shall be determined by  
 56 population size in descending order.

57 6. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal  
 58 governing bodies of Belleair Shore, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian  
 59 Shores, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington  
 60 Shores, Madeira Beach, Treasure Island, and St. Pete Beach. This  
 61 appointee shall be an elected official. The order of rotation  
 62 shall be determined by population size in descending order.

63 7. One member shall be appointed by the Senate President or  
 64 the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the combined  
 65 municipal governing bodies of Tarpon Springs, Safety Harbor,  
 66 Oldsmar, Dunedin, Belleair, and Belleair Bluffs. This appointee  
 67 shall be a citizen appointee. This appointment shall rotate  
 68 between Senate President and Speaker of the House of  
 69 Representatives.

70 8. One member shall be appointed by the Senate President or  
 71 the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the combined  
 72 municipal governing bodies of Largo, Seminole, South Pasadena,  
 73 Gulfport, Kenneth City, and Pinellas Park. This appointee shall  
 74 be a citizen appointee. This appointment shall rotate between  
 75 Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

- 76           1. ~~One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~  
77 ~~the City of Clearwater from its membership.~~
- 78           2. ~~One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of~~  
79 ~~the City of Dunedin from its membership.~~
- 80           3. ~~One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of~~  
81 ~~the City of Largo from its membership.~~
- 82           4. ~~One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~  
83 ~~the City of Pinellas Park from its membership.~~
- 84           5. ~~Two members shall be appointed by the City Council of~~  
85 ~~the City of St. Petersburg from its membership.~~
- 86           6. ~~One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~  
87 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and~~  
88 ~~Tarpon Springs from their membership.~~
- 89           7. ~~One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~  
90 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs,~~  
91 ~~Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, and South Pasadena from their~~  
92 ~~membership.~~
- 93           8. ~~One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~  
94 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair Beach, Belleair~~  
95 ~~Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North~~  
96 ~~Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St. Pete~~  
97 ~~Beach, and Treasure Island from their membership.~~
- 98           9. ~~Four members shall be appointed by the Pinellas County~~  
99 ~~Commission from its membership.~~
- 100          10. ~~One member shall be appointed by the Pinellas County~~

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

101 ~~Commission, and this member may not be an elected official.~~

102 ~~11. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~  
 103 ~~the City of St. Petersburg, and this member may not be an~~  
 104 ~~elected official.~~

105 Section 4. Purposes and powers.—

106 (1) The authority created and established by the  
 107 provisions of this act is hereby granted and shall have the  
 108 right and power to purchase, own, and/or operate transit  
 109 facilities;7 to contract for transit services;7 to exercise  
 110 power of eminent domain if approved by a two-thirds vote of the  
 111 Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board in a public meeting  
 112 with a 30-day public notice and shall be reported to the  
 113 Pinellas Board of County Commissioners semiannually in public  
 114 meetings with a 30-day public notice;7 to conduct studies;7 and  
 115 to contract with other governmental agencies, private companies,  
 116 and individuals.

117 (2) The authority is hereby granted, and shall have and  
 118 may exercise all powers necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or  
 119 incidental to the carrying out of the aforesaid purposes,  
 120 including, but not limited to, the following rights and powers:

121 (a) To sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and  
 122 complain and defend in all courts.

123 (b) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

124 (c) To acquire, purchase, hold, lease as a lessee, and use  
 125 any franchise, property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

126 intangible, or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for  
 127 carrying out the purposes of the authority, and to sell, lease  
 128 as lessor, transfer, and dispose of any property or interest  
 129 therein at any time acquired by it. Any sale, lease, or transfer  
 130 of any property or interest shall be upon competitive bid except  
 131 that the authority may sell, lease, or transfer any real  
 132 property or interest therein to another governmental entity  
 133 without competitive bid and may sell, lease, or transfer surplus  
 134 personal property, tangible or intangible, in accordance with  
 135 chapter 274, Florida Statutes.

136 (d) To fix, alter, charge, and establish rates, fares, and  
 137 other charges for the services and facilities of the Pinellas  
 138 Suncoast Transit System, which rates, fees, and charges shall be  
 139 equitable and just and sufficient to meet the operating  
 140 requirements of the system along with other revenue that may be  
 141 available.

142 ~~(c) To regulate other operators of public transit in the~~  
 143 ~~Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area as to franchises, permits, fares,~~  
 144 ~~and other charges to establish rules and regulations pertaining~~  
 145 ~~to these matters for distribution to the operators and public~~  
 146 ~~transit facilities in said area.~~

147 (e) ~~(f)~~ To make contracts of every name and nature and  
 148 to execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the  
 149 carrying on of its business.

150 (f) ~~(g)~~ To enter into management contracts with any person

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

151 or persons for the management of a transit system owned or  
 152 controlled by the authority for such period or periods of time,  
 153 and under such compensation and other terms and conditions as  
 154 shall be deemed advisable by the authority.

155 (g)~~(h)~~ Without limitation, to borrow money and accept gifts  
 156 or grants or loans of money or other property and to enter into  
 157 contracts, leases, or other transactions with any federal  
 158 agency, the state, any agency of the state, the County of  
 159 Pinellas, or with any other public body of the state.

160 (h)~~(i)~~ To do all acts and things necessary or convenient  
 161 for the conduct of its business and the general welfare of the  
 162 authority in order to carry out the powers granted to it by this  
 163 part or any other law.

164 (i)~~(j)~~ To prescribe and promulgate rules and regulations  
 165 as it deems necessary for the purposes of this act.

166 Section 15. Window Coverings and Advertisements.—

167 (1) Any new window covering or advertisement must adhere  
 168 to requirements provided in section 316.2954, Florida Statutes.

169 (2) The authority shall not engage in any non-paid  
 170 advertising, promotion, or messaging on their assets.

171 Section 16. Best budget practices.—The authority must  
 172 abide by the best budgetary guidelines as outlined by, but not  
 173 limited to, the Florida Government Finance Officers Association  
 174 and the Government Finance Officers Association.

175 Section 18. Lane elimination, lane repurposing, lane diet,

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

176 | or bus lane allocation requests, recommendations, or  
 177 | applications.-

178 | (1) Any lane elimination, lane repurposing, lane diet, or  
 179 | bus lane allocation request, recommendation, or application must  
 180 | be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Pinellas Suncoast  
 181 | Transit Authority Board in a public meeting with a 30-day public  
 182 | notice and then presented to the Pinellas Board of County  
 183 | Commissioners prior to a final two-thirds vote of the Pinellas  
 184 | Suncoast Transit Authority.

185 | (2) The authority shall not have a lane elimination, lane  
 186 | repurposing, lane diet, or bus lane allocation office, board,  
 187 | employee, or any other actor whose purpose is to eliminate,  
 188 | reallocate, or repurpose public lanes for the usage of the  
 189 | authority.

190 | (3) This section does not apply to any local or municipally  
 191 | owned roadway.

192 | (4) This section shall include any new service of any  
 193 | design or name that would include plans for lane elimination,  
 194 | lane repurposing, lane diet, or bus lane allocation calling for  
 195 | the loss of an existing lane of a vehicular roadway to bus only  
 196 | use or Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes.

197 | Section 21. Semiannual Reporting.-

198 | (1) The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority shall  
 199 | semiannually report the following to the Pinellas Board of  
 200 | County Commissioners:



BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

201        (a) Any gifts accepted in exchange for contracts.  
 202        (b) Any contract over \$500,000.  
 203        (c) Any sale, lease, or transfer of any property or  
 204 interest over \$500,000.  
 205        (d) Ridership performance and metrics.  
 206        (2) The Pinellas Board of County Commissioners may call for  
 207 in-person presentations of these reports at a minimum of once a  
 208 year.  
 209        Section 22. Severability Clause.-  
 210        (1) This act is not intended, nor may it be construed, to  
 211 conflict with existing, relevant state or federal law.  
 212        (2) If any provision of this act or its application to any  
 213 person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not  
 214 affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be  
 215 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and  
 216 to this end the provisions of this act are severable.  
 217        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.