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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Pinellas Suncoast Transit
 3 Authority, Pinellas County; amending chapter 2000-424,
 4 Laws of Florida, as amended; revising the definition
 5 of the term "public transit"; revising membership of
 6 the governing body of the authority; requiring removal
 7 of a member under certain circumstances; revising
 8 powers of the authority; requiring adoption of a
 9 mission statement; establishing requirements for
 10 advertising placed on authority property; providing
 11 ridership monitoring requirements; requiring the
 12 authority to provide, follow, and report to the
 13 Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners certain
 14 performance metrics; providing for best budget
 15 practices; creating eligibility requirements for the
 16 chief executive officer and for governing body
 17 candidates; establishing procedures for lane
 18 elimination; prohibiting certain offices, boards,
 19 employees, or other actors whose purpose is to
 20 eliminate or reallocate public lanes; requiring salary
 21 disclosure for authority staff; requiring disclosure
 22 of lobbying activities; requiring presentation of
 23 legislative priorities to the Pinellas Legislative
 24 Delegation annually within a certain timeframe;
 25 providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 2, subsection (2) of section 3, and section 4 of section 2 of chapter 2000-424, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 2002-341 and 2006-327, Laws of Florida, are amended, and sections 14 through 22 are added to section 2 of that chapter, to read:

Section 2. Definitions.—As used in this act, unless the content clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

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

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

(2) (a) The governing body of the authority shall consist of 9 ~~15~~ members, serving and selected as provided in this paragraph.

1. One member shall be appointed by each member of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, who may be selected from the membership of the commission or an elected

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51 official representing an area with the boundaries of that
 52 commissioner's district.

53 2. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of
 54 the City of St. Petersburg.

55 3. One member shall be appointed by the Governor. This
 56 member shall be a resident of the territorial jurisdiction
 57 served by the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority to which the
 58 member is appointed.

59 ~~1. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 60 ~~the City of Clearwater from its membership.~~

61 ~~2. One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of~~
 62 ~~the City of Dunedin from its membership.~~

63 ~~3. One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of~~
 64 ~~the City of Largo from its membership.~~

65 ~~4. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 66 ~~the City of Pinellas Park from its membership.~~

67 ~~5. Two members shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 68 ~~the City of St. Petersburg from its membership.~~

69 ~~6. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~
 70 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and~~
 71 ~~Tarpon Springs from their membership.~~

72 ~~7. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~
 73 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs,~~
 74 ~~Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, and South Pasadena from their~~
 75 ~~membership.~~

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76 ~~8. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~
 77 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair Beach, Belleair~~
 78 ~~Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North~~
 79 ~~Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St. Pete~~
 80 ~~Beach, and Treasure Island from their membership.~~

81 ~~9. Four members shall be appointed by the Pinellas County~~
 82 ~~Commission from its membership.~~

83 ~~10. One member shall be appointed by the Pinellas County~~
 84 ~~Commission, and this member may not be an elected official.~~

85 ~~11. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 86 ~~the City of St. Petersburg, and this member may not be an~~
 87 ~~elected official.~~

88
 89 After the expiration of each term of each member of the
 90 governing body of the authority, that member's successor shall
 91 be chosen by the same appointing authority as the member and
 92 must possess the same qualifications. Each term of office shall
 93 be 3 years, and a member may not serve more than 3 consecutive
 94 terms as a member of the governing body of the authority.

95 (b) Each appointed member shall hold office until his or
 96 her successor has been appointed and qualified. A vacancy
 97 occurring during a term shall be filled only for the balance of
 98 the unexpired term. A selection to fill a vacancy or select a
 99 successor shall be made within 60 days after the occurrence of
 100 the vacancy or before expiration of the term, whichever is

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101 applicable. If any selection is not made as provided in this
 102 subsection, the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County
 103 shall appoint an eligible person to the authority with like
 104 effect as if the selection were made by a municipality or group
 105 of municipalities. Any member of the authority is eligible for
 106 reappointment, except that the member may not serve more than 3
 107 consecutive terms.

108 (c) Each member shall abide by each section and provision
 109 provided in this act. A member shall be removed from his or her
 110 position if he or she does not work in support of any of this
 111 act's sections, guidance, or intent.

112 Section 4. Purposes and powers.—

113 (1) The authority created and established by the
 114 provisions of this act is hereby granted and shall have the
 115 right and power to purchase, own, and/or operate transit
 116 facilities;; to contract for transit services;; to exercise
 117 power of eminent domain if the Pinellas Board of County
 118 Commissioners authorizes the acquisition of property by eminent
 119 domain in at least two public meetings, each with a 30-day
 120 public notice, after first being approved by the governing body
 121 of the authority in a public meeting; to conduct studies;; and
 122 to contract with other governmental agencies, private companies,
 123 and individuals.

124 (2) The authority is hereby granted, and shall have and
 125 may exercise all powers necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or

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126 incidental to the carrying out of the aforesaid purposes,
 127 including, but not limited to, the following rights and powers:
 128 (a) To sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and
 129 complain and defend in all courts.
 130 (b) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.
 131 (c) To acquire, purchase, hold, lease as a lessee, and use
 132 any franchise, property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or
 133 intangible, or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for
 134 carrying out the purposes of the authority, and to sell, lease
 135 as lessor, transfer, and dispose of any property or interest
 136 therein at any time acquired by it. Any sale, lease, or transfer
 137 of any property or interest shall be upon competitive bid except
 138 that the authority may sell, lease, or transfer any real
 139 property or interest therein to another governmental entity
 140 without competitive bid and may sell, lease, or transfer surplus
 141 personal property, tangible or intangible, in accordance with
 142 chapter 274, Florida Statutes. Any sale, lease, or transfer of
 143 any property or interest shall be publicly noticed at least 30
 144 days prior to hearing and approved by the Pinellas County Board
 145 of County Commissioners in a public meeting after first being
 146 approved by the governing body of the authority in a public
 147 meeting.
 148 (d) To fix, alter, charge, and establish rates, fares, and
 149 other charges for the services and facilities of the Pinellas
 150 Suncoast Transit System, which rates, fees, and charges shall be

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151 equitable and just and sufficient to meet the operating
 152 requirements of the system along with other revenue that may be
 153 available. The Pinellas Suncoast Transit System shall not offer
 154 free fares, except to veterans, unless approved by the Pinellas
 155 County Board of County Commissioners in two public meetings,
 156 each with a 30-day public notice, after first being approved by
 157 the governing body of the authority in a public meeting.

158 ~~(c) To regulate other operators of public transit in the~~
 159 ~~Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area as to franchises, permits, fares,~~
 160 ~~and other charges to establish rules and regulations pertaining~~
 161 ~~to these matters for distribution to the operators and public~~
 162 ~~transit facilities in said area.~~

163 (e) ~~(f)~~ To make contracts of every name and nature and to
 164 execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying
 165 on of its business. This includes the ability to contract with
 166 private companies and individuals. Any contract must meet the
 167 standard of providing public transportation needs while
 168 maximizing ridership as efficiently as possible. Any contract
 169 must be competitively bid by a minimum of five contract options
 170 and voted upon by the governing body of the authority in at
 171 least two public meetings, each with a 30-day public notice.

172 (f) ~~(g)~~ To enter into management contracts with any person
 173 or persons for the management of a transit system owned or
 174 controlled by the authority for such period or periods of time,
 175 and under such compensation and other terms and conditions as

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176 shall be deemed advisable by the authority.

177 (g)~~(h)~~ With ~~Without~~ limitation, to borrow money and accept
 178 gifts or grants or loans of money or other property and to enter
 179 into contracts, leases, or other transactions with any federal
 180 agency, the state, any agency of the state, the County of
 181 Pinellas, or with any other public body of the state. Any gifts
 182 accepted in exchange for contracts must be approved by the
 183 governing body of the authority in at least two public meetings,
 184 each with a 30-day notice.

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

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

191 Section 14. Mission statement.—The authority must adopt a
 192 mission statement that achieves the goal of providing public
 193 transportation needs while maximizing ridership as efficiently
 194 as possible.

195 Section 15. Advertisements.—

196 (1) Any new wrap, tinting, paint, medium, or advertisement
 197 on passenger windows may not be darker than the legally allowed
 198 window tinting requirements as provided in section 316.2954,
 199 Florida Statutes.

200 (2) Any new wrap, tinting, paint, medium, or advertisement

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201 on any public transit carrier must have prior approval from the
 202 governing body of the authority in at least two public meetings,
 203 each with a 30-day public notice.

204 (3) Any wrap, tinting, paint, medium, or advertisement on
 205 any public transit carrier or authority asset, promotional
 206 medium, communication, messaging medium, or notification may not
 207 be of a political, social, or ideological nature; however, this
 208 subsection does not apply to any acknowledgement of veterans as
 209 defined in section 1.01, Florida Statutes, or any
 210 acknowledgement of a holiday listed in section 110.117, Florida
 211 Statutes.

212 (4) Any advertisement under this section may not be paid
 213 for through state or local funds either directly or through a
 214 grant or agreement; however, this subsection does not apply to
 215 any acknowledgement of United States veterans or any
 216 acknowledgement of a holiday listed in section 110.117, Florida
 217 Statutes.

218 Section 16. Monitoring ridership.—Ridership must be
 219 monitored by industry standard technology approved by the
 220 Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in a public
 221 meeting with a 30-day public notice after first being approved
 222 by the governing body of the authority in a public meeting.

223 Section 17. Performance metrics.—The authority must
 224 provide, follow, and publicly report on a quarterly basis to the
 225 Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners performance

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226 | metrics that include, but are not limited to, ridership by
 227 | route, cost per rider, and other standard transportation
 228 | performance metrics.

229 | Section 18. Best budget practices.—The authority must
 230 | abide by the best budgetary guidelines as outlined by, but not
 231 | limited to, the Florida Government Finance Officers Association
 232 | and the Government Finance Officers Association.

233 | Section 19. Eligibility requirements.—

234 | (1) The chief executive officer for the authority must
 235 | have at least 10 years of significant work experience at the
 236 | management level in the public or private sector, including 3 or
 237 | more years of transit industry experience, in addition to a
 238 | record of demonstrated career progressions and successes,
 239 | including with for-profit private transportation providers.

240 | (2) Candidates for the governing body of the authority
 241 | should have demonstrable knowledge of the transit industry,
 242 | transportation, or the authority.

243 | Section 20. Lane elimination or bus lane allocation.—

244 | (1) Any lane elimination or bus lane allocation must be
 245 | approved by a supermajority vote of the governing body of the
 246 | authority and then approved by the Pinellas County Board of
 247 | County Commissioners in two public meetings, each with at least
 248 | a 30-day notice.

249 | (2) The authority shall not have a lane elimination or bus
 250 | lane allocation office, lane elimination board, bus lane

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251 allocation board, lane elimination employee, lane allocation
 252 employee, or any other actor whose purpose is to eliminate or
 253 reallocate public lanes for the usage of the authority.

254 Section 21. Disclosure of total compensation.—Total
 255 compensation for all authority staff shall be publicly
 256 disclosed.

257 Section 22. Legislative priorities.—

258 (1) The authority shall publicly disclose any lobbying as
 259 defined in section 11.045, Florida Statutes.

260 (2) The authority shall present the Pinellas Legislative
 261 Delegation with its legislative priorities annually at least 60
 262 days before the start of the Legislative Session.

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