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CS/HB 1397, Engrossed 1

2023 Legislature

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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

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26 enhancing the effectiveness of local and regional public transit
 27 service delivery.

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

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

36 (b) Financial assets and obligations.

37 (c) Facilities and operations.

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

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

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

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51 administrator or chief executive officer, and the general
52 counsel.

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

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

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