

CHAPTER 85-364

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 608

An act relating to the Department of Transportation; requiring the department to increase the Pinellas Bayway toll upon completion of Phase I of the Bayway improvements currently under construction; requiring the department to operate and maintain the facility; providing for disbursement of tolls collected; providing for an annual pass; exempting certain public safety vehicles from payment of the toll; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Upon completion of Phase I Construction of the Pinellas Bayway improvements, which improvements consist of widening to four lanes the Pinellas Bayway from the eastern toll booth to State Road 679, the Department of Transportation shall increase to 50 cents the revenue-producing toll at the presently established eastern and western toll plazas located on the Pinellas Bayway in Pinellas County, Florida. The department shall continue to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Pinellas Bayway.

Section 2. All tolls collected shall first be used for the payment of annual operating costs and second to discharge the current bond indebtedness related to the Pinellas Bayway. Thereafter, tolls collected shall be used to establish a reserve construction account to be used, together with interest earned thereon, by the department for Phase II of the Pinellas Bayway improvements, which improvements consist of widening to four lanes the Pinellas Bayway from State Road 679 west to Gulf Boulevard, including necessary approaches, bridges, and avenues of access. Upon completion of the Phase II improvements, the department shall continue to collect tolls on the Pinellas Bayway for purposes of reimbursing the department for all accrued maintenance costs for the Pinellas Bayway.

Section 3. At the time of the toll increase to 50 cents on the Pinellas Bayway, the Department of Transportation shall allow any person to purchase for each motor vehicle he owns an annual pass at a cost of \$50 per vehicle per year exempting the motor vehicle from any Pinellas Bayway tolls during the term of the pass. Funds collected from the sale of annual passes shall be deposited as provided in section 2 of this act.

Section 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, public safety vehicles which are being used for official business are exempt from paying the toll for use of the Pinellas Bayway.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1985 or upon becoming a law, whichever occurs later.

Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 24, 1985