

By Senator Artiles

40-00329-17

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1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to high-occupancy toll lanes and  
 3 express lanes; amending s. 338.166, F.S.; specifying  
 4 that the Department of Transportation may only collect  
 5 tolls on high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes  
 6 for the discharge of certain bond indebtedness on a  
 7 project existing before a specified date; requiring  
 8 that the tolls be eliminated after discharge of the  
 9 project's bond indebtedness; prohibiting the creation  
 10 of high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes on or  
 11 after a specified date; requiring existing lanes to no  
 12 longer be high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes  
 13 upon elimination of their tolls; providing an  
 14 effective date.

15  
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
 18 Section 1. Section 338.166, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 19 read:

20 338.166 Termination of high-occupancy toll lanes or express  
 21 lanes.—

22 (1) Under s. 11, Art. VII of the State Constitution, the  
 23 department may request the Division of Bond Finance to issue  
 24 bonds secured by toll revenues collected on high-occupancy toll  
 25 lanes or express lanes established on facilities owned by the  
 26 department. However,

27 ~~(2)~~ the department may only ~~continue to~~ collect a the toll  
 28 on ~~the~~ high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes for ~~after~~ the  
 29 discharge of any bond indebtedness related to a ~~such~~ project  
 30 that exists before July 1, 2017. After the discharge of any bond  
 31 indebtedness related to such project, the toll on the high-  
 32 occupancy toll lanes or express lanes must be eliminated All

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33 ~~tolls so collected shall first be used to pay the annual cost of~~  
34 ~~the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the high-~~  
35 ~~occupancy toll lanes or express lanes project or associated~~  
36 ~~transportation system.~~

37 (2)(3) High-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes may not  
38 be created on or after July 1, 2017. Upon elimination of the  
39 tolls on existing high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes  
40 pursuant to subsection (1), such lanes may continue to exist but  
41 not as high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes Any remaining  
42 ~~toll revenue from the high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes~~  
43 ~~shall be used by the department for the construction,~~  
44 ~~maintenance, or improvement of any road on the State Highway~~  
45 ~~System within the county or counties in which the toll revenues~~  
46 ~~were collected or to support express bus service on the facility~~  
47 ~~where the toll revenues were collected.~~

48 (3)(4) The department may implement variable rate tolls on  
49 high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes.

50 (4)(5) Except for high-occupancy toll lanes or express  
51 lanes, tolls may not be charged for use of an interstate highway  
52 where tolls were not charged as of July 1, 1997.

53 (5)(6) This section does not apply to the turnpike system  
54 as defined under the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Law.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.