



**The Commerce Group  
2009-B  
Special Session Summary**

## **Transportation**

### **HB 1-B, Transportation**

Provides a statutory framework for enhancing the consideration of passenger rail as a modal choice in the development and operation of Florida's transportation network. Essentially, the bill:

Creates a Florida Rail Enterprise (enterprise), modeled after the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, to coordinate the development and operation of passenger rail services statewide, including high-speed rail.

Establishes a Statewide Passenger Rail Commission to monitor, advise, and review publicly-funded passenger rail systems.

Creates dedicated funding sources for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) and for future passenger rail development and operations, and revises funding levels and duration for operating costs.

Revises, beginning in 2014, the documentary stamp tax revenues that are allocated among the Small County Outreach Program, the Transportation Regional Incentive Program, and the Strategic Intermodal System.

Requires the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to identify and address the impacts of freight rail traffic changes resulting from passenger rail activities.

Grants DOT the authority to contractually indemnify freight rail operators from whom DOT acquires a real property interest in a rail corridor in certain circumstances.

Authorizes DOT to purchase insurance and establish a self-retention fund to insure against liability risks.

Allows for an escrowed closing of the Central Florida Rail Corridor contingent upon the receipt of certain federal funds; and revises definitions and deletes obsolete provisions relating to DOT's rail system program.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law.