

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to toll relief; requiring the Florida
3 Turnpike Enterprise to establish a toll relief program
4 for a specified timeframe; defining terms; specifying
5 the requirements for eligibility for account credits
6 under the program; appropriating funds for the
7 Department of Transportation to reimburse the
8 department, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, and other
9 Florida toll facilities and Florida toll facility
10 entities for account credits issued under the program;
11 requiring the department to ensure compliance with
12 certain covenants; prohibiting the department from
13 using appropriated funds for specified purposes;
14 authorizing the department to reimburse each Florida
15 toll facility or Florida toll facility entity for the
16 actual account credits issued, based on specified
17 reports; requiring each Florida toll facility or
18 Florida toll facility entity to submit certain
19 documentation for reimbursement; providing for the
20 reversion of unexpended funds; requiring the
21 department to submit quarterly reports documenting
22 specified reimbursements to the Governor and specified
23 legislative entities; specifying the documentation to
24 be submitted with the department's report; requiring
25 the department to reconcile disbursements and

26 transfers, to transfer interest earned to the General
 27 Revenue Fund, and to provide a quarterly report
 28 regarding reconciliation to the Governor and specified
 29 legislative entities; providing for expiration;
 30 providing an effective date.

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

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 35 Section 1. (1) The Florida Turnpike Enterprise shall
 36 establish a toll relief program effective January 1, 2023,
 37 through December 31, 2023, for all Florida toll facilities or
 38 Florida toll facility entities that use a Florida-issued
 39 transponder or are interoperable with the Department of
 40 Transportation's prepaid electronic transponder toll system.

41 (a) As used in this subsection, the term:

42 1. "Qualifying account" means a private prepaid SunPass
 43 account or another Florida-based electronic prepaid toll program
 44 account in good standing.

45 2. "Qualifying transaction" means a paid transponder-based
 46 toll transaction incurred by a two-axle vehicle for travel on a
 47 Florida toll facility using a Florida issued transponder linked
 48 to a qualifying account.

49 (b) A qualifying account that records 35 or more
 50 qualifying transactions per transponder per calendar month is

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51 eligible for an account credit equal to 50 percent of the amount
52 paid in that calendar month for the qualifying transactions per
53 transponder. The account credit shall be posted to the
54 qualifying account the month after the credit is earned.

55 (c) A SunPass or other transponder issued by a Florida
56 toll entity must be linked to a qualifying account.

57 (2) In order to facilitate this act, for the 2022-2023
58 fiscal year, the nonrecurring sum of \$500 million from the
59 General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the State Transportation
60 Trust Fund for the Department of Transportation to reimburse the
61 department, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, and other Florida
62 toll facilities or Florida toll facility entities for account
63 credits issued for promotional purposes as authorized in s.
64 338.161(1), Florida Statutes, and under the toll relief program
65 created by this act. The department shall provide reimbursements
66 to support compliance with covenants made with the bondholders
67 of the department, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, or other
68 Florida toll facility entities which are in the trust indentures
69 or resolutions adopted in connection with the issuance of such
70 bonds. The department may not use appropriated funds for
71 administration, contracted services, or expenses of the
72 department, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, a Florida toll
73 facility or Florida toll facility entity, or any contractor or
74 vendor thereof.

75 (3) The department may reimburse each Florida toll

76 facility or Florida toll facility entities, as applicable, from
77 appropriated funds for the amount of actual account credits
78 issued, based upon auditable reports prepared by the Florida
79 toll facility or Florida toll facility entities which aggregate
80 the account credits issued. The reports must include any
81 documentation required by the department to provide the
82 department with sufficient information for reimbursement of
83 account credits issued.

84 (4) The unexpended balance of funds appropriated to the
85 department for toll relief as of June 30, 2023, shall revert and
86 is appropriated to the department for the same purpose for the
87 2023-2024 fiscal year. Any unexpended balance of funds as of
88 February 29, 2024, shall immediately revert to the General
89 Revenue Fund.

90 (5) The department shall submit quarterly reports to the
91 Executive Office of the Governor and the chairs of the
92 legislative appropriations committees documenting reimbursements
93 issued under this program to the department, the Florida
94 Turnpike Enterprise, and other Florida toll facilities and
95 Florida toll facility entities. The department's report must
96 include supporting documentation with auditable data to support
97 the account credits issued.

98 (6) By the end of the month following each quarter, the
99 department shall reconcile all disbursements and transfers for
100 reimbursement, transfer to the General Revenue Fund all interest

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101 | earnings from the appropriated funds, and provide a report of
102 | reconciliation to the Executive Office of the Governor and the
103 | chairs of the legislative appropriations committees.

104 | (7) This act expires February 29, 2024.

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