1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to expressway authorities; providing a 3 short title; amending s. 348.0004, F.S.; requiring toll increases by authorities in certain counties to 4 5 be approved by an independent study and vote of the 6 expressway authority board; limiting the extent of 7 such increases; limiting the amount of toll revenues 8 such authorities may use for administrative expenses; 9 requiring a certain distance between toll collection 10 facilities on transportation facilities constructed 11 after a specified date; creating s. 348.00115, F.S.; 12 requiring such authorities to post certain information 13 on a website; providing an effective date. 14 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 16 17 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Toll Reform Act." 18 Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section Section 2. 19 348.0004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 20 348.0004 Purposes and powers.-21 Each authority may exercise all powers necessary, (2)appurtenant, convenient, or incidental to the carrying out of 22 23 its purposes, including, but not limited to, the following 24 rights and powers: 25 To fix, alter, charge, establish, and collect tolls, (e) Page 1 of 4

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26 rates, fees, rentals, and other charges for the services and 27 facilities system, which tolls, rates, fees, rentals, and other 28 charges must always be sufficient to comply with any covenants 29 made with the holders of any bonds issued pursuant to the 30 Florida Expressway Authority Act. However, such right and power 31 may be assigned or delegated by the authority to the department. 32 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the 33 contrary, but subject to any contractual requirements contained in documents securing any indebtedness outstanding on July 1, 34 35 2017, in any county as defined in s. 125.011(1): The authority may not increase a toll unless the 36 a. 37 increase is justified to the satisfaction of the authority by a 38 traffic and revenue study conducted by an independent third 39 party. The authority may only increase tolls to the extent 40 b. 41 necessary to adjust for inflation pursuant to the index of toll 42 rate adjustments provided pursuant to s. 338.165. 43 c. A toll increase must be approved by a two-thirds vote 44 of the expressway authority board. 45 d. The authority may not use more than 10 percent of its 46 toll revenues for administrative expenses. For purposes of this 47 sub-subparagraph, administrative expenses include, but are not 48 limited to, employee salaries and benefits, small business outreach, insurance, professional service contracts not directly 49 50 related to the operation and maintenance of the expressway

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51 <u>system, and other overhead costs.</u> 52 <u>e. On transportation facilities constructed after July 1,</u> 53 <u>2017, there must be a distance of at least 5 miles between toll</u> 54 <u>collection facilities.</u>

55 <u>2.</u> Notwithstanding s. 338.165 or any other provision of 1aw to the contrary, in any county as defined in s. 125.011(1), 57 to the extent surplus revenues exist, they may be used for 58 purposes enumerated in subsection (7), provided the expenditures 59 are consistent with the metropolitan planning organization's 60 adopted long-range plan.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the 61 62 contrary, but subject to any contractual requirements contained 63 in documents securing any outstanding indebtedness payable from 64 tolls, in any county as defined in s. 125.011(1), the board of 65 county commissioners may, by ordinance adopted on or before 66 September 30, 1999, alter or abolish existing tolls and 67 currently approved increases thereto if the board provides a 68 local source of funding to the county expressway system for 69 transportation in an amount sufficient to replace revenues 70 necessary to meet bond obligations secured by such tolls and 71 increases.

72 Section 3. Section 348.00115, Florida Statutes, is created 73 to read:

74348.00115Public accountability.—An expressway authority75in a county as defined in s. 125.011(1) shall post the following

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76	information on its website:
77	(1) Audited financial statements and any interim financial
78	reports.
79	(2) Board and committee meeting agendas, meeting packets,
80	and minutes.
81	(3) Bond covenants for any outstanding bond issues.
82	(4) Authority budgets.
83	(5) Authority contracts. For purposes of this subsection,
84	"contract" means a written agreement or purchase order issued
85	for the purchase of goods or services or a written agreement for
86	the receipt of state or federal financial assistance.
87	(6) Authority expenditure data, which must include the
88	name of the payee, the date of the expenditure, and the amount
89	of the expenditure. Such data must be searchable by name of the
90	payee, name of the paying agency, and fiscal year and must be
91	downloadable in a format that allows offline analysis.
92	(7) Information relating to current, recently completed,
93	and future projects on authority facilities.
94	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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