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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the purchase of plant materials for transportation projects; amending s. 334.044, F.S.; removing provisions requiring that certain percentages of funds allocated by the Department of Transportation for construction projects be used for the purchase of

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

plant materials; providing an effective date.

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Section 1. Subsection (26) of section 334.044, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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334.044 Powers and duties of the department.—The department shall have the following general powers and duties:

To provide for the enhancement of environmental

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erosion; to conserve the natural roadside growth and scenery; and to provide for the implementation and maintenance of roadside conservation, enhancement, and stabilization programs.

benefits, including air and water quality; to prevent roadside

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At least 1.5 percent of the amount contracted for construction

projects shall be allocated by the department on a statewide

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basis for the purchase of plant materials. Department districts

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may not expend funds for landscaping in connection with any project that is limited to resurfacing existing lanes unless the

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expenditure has been approved by the department's secretary or

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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the secretary's designee. To the greatest extent practical, at least 50 percent of the funds allocated under this subsection shall be allocated for large plant materials and the remaining funds for other plant materials. Except as prohibited by applicable federal law or regulation, all plant materials shall be purchased from Florida commercial nursery stock in this state on a uniform competitive bid basis. The department shall develop grades and standards for landscaping materials purchased through this process. To accomplish these activities, the department may contract with nonprofit organizations having the primary purpose of developing youth employment opportunities.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.