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SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
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PART I
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
(ss. 427.011-427.017)

PART I

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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427.011 Definitions.—For the purposes of ss. 427.011-427.017:

(1) “Transportation disadvantaged” means those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in s. 411.202.

(2) “Metropolitan planning organization” means the organization responsible for carrying out transportation planning and programming in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. s. 134, as provided in 23 U.S.C. s. 104(f)(3).

(3) “Agency” means an official, officer, commission, authority, council, committee, department, division, bureau, board, section, or any other unit or entity of the state or of a city, town, municipality, county, or other local governing body or a private nonprofit transportation service-providing agency.

(4) “Transportation improvement program” means a staged multiyear program of transportation improvements, including an annual element, which is developed by a metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency.

(5) “Community transportation coordinator” means a transportation entity recommended by a metropolitan planning organization, or by the appropriate designated official planning agency as provided for in ss. 427.011-427.017 in an area outside the purview of a metropolitan planning organization, to ensure that coordinated transportation services are provided to the transportation disadvantaged population in a designated service area.

(6) “Transportation operator” means one or more public, private for-profit, or private nonprofit entities engaged by the community transportation coordinator to provide service to transportation disadvantaged persons pursuant to a coordinated system service plan.

(7) “Coordinating board” means an advisory entity in each designated service area composed of representatives appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency, to provide assistance to the community transportation coordinator relative to the coordination of transportation services.

(8) “Purchasing agency” means a department or agency whose head is an ex officio, nonvoting adviser to the commission, or an agency that purchases transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged.

(9) “Paratransit” means those elements of public transit which provide service between specific origins and destinations selected by the individual user with such service being provided at a time that is agreed upon by the user and provider of the service. Paratransit service is provided by taxis, limousines, “dial-a-ride,” buses, and other demand-responsive operations that are characterized by their nonscheduled, nonfixed route nature.

(10) “Transportation disadvantaged funds” means any local government, state, or available federal funds that are for the transportation of the transportation disadvantaged. Such funds may include, but are not limited to, funds for planning, Medicaid transportation, administration, operation, procurement, and maintenance of vehicles or equipment and capital investments. Transportation disadvantaged funds do not include funds for the transportation of children to public schools.

(11) “Coordination” means the arrangement for the provision of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient, and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

(12) “Nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services” means transportation disadvantaged services that are not sponsored or subsidized by any funding source other than the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.

History.—ss. 1, 9, ch. 79-180; s. 4, ch. 80-414; ss. 1, 3, ch. 84-56; ss. 1, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 57, ch. 90-306; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 82, ch. 92-152; s. 63, ch. 94-237; s. 2, ch. 2008-203.

427.012 The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.—There is created the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in the Department of Transportation.

(1) The commission shall consist of seven members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the requirements of s. 20.052.

(a) Five of the members must have significant experience in the operation of a business, and it is the intent of the Legislature that, when making an appointment, the Governor select persons who reflect the broad diversity of the business community in this state, as well as the racial, ethnic, geographical, and gender diversity of the population of this state.

(b) Two of the members must have a disability and use the transportation disadvantaged system.

(c) Each member shall represent the needs of the transportation disadvantaged throughout the state. A member may not subordinate the needs of the transportation disadvantaged in general in order to favor the needs of others residing in a specific location in the state.

(d) Each member shall be appointed to a term of 4 years. A member may be reappointed for one additional 4-year term.

(e) Each member must be a resident of the state and a registered voter.

(f) At any given time, at least one member must be at least 65 years of age.

(g) The Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Children and Families, the Secretary of Economic Opportunity, the executive director of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the Secretary of Elderly Affairs, the Secretary of Health Care Administration, the director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and a county manager or administrator who is appointed by the Governor, or a senior management level representative of each, shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting advisors to the commission.

(h) A member may not, within the 5 years immediately before his or her appointment, or during his or her term on the commission, have or have had a financial relationship with, or represent or have represented as a lobbyist as defined in s. 11.045, the following:

1. A transportation operator;
2. A community transportation coordinator;
3. A metropolitan planning organization;
4. A designated official planning agency;
5. A purchaser agency;

6. A local coordinating board;
7. A broker of transportation; or
8. A provider of transportation services.

(2) The chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor, and the vice chairperson of the commission shall be elected annually from the membership of the commission.

(3) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed per diem and travel expenses, as provided in s. 112.061.

(4) The commission shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the call of the chairperson. Four members of the commission constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of the members present is necessary for any action taken by the commission.

(5) The Governor may remove any member of the commission for cause.

(6) Each candidate for appointment to the commission must, before accepting the appointment, undergo background screening under s. 435.04 by filing with the Department of Transportation a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency. The fingerprints must be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and that department shall submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal processing. The Department of Transportation shall screen the background results and inform the commission of any candidate who does not meet level 2 screening standards. A candidate who has not met level 2 screening standards may not be appointed to the commission. The cost of the background screening may be borne by the Department of Transportation or the candidate.

(7) The commission shall appoint an executive director who shall serve under the direction, supervision, and control of the commission. The executive director, with the consent of the commission, shall employ such personnel as may be necessary to perform adequately the functions of the commission within budgetary limitations. Employees of the commission are exempt from the Career Service System.

(8) The commission shall appoint a technical working group that includes representatives of private paratransit providers. The technical working group shall advise the commission on issues of importance to the state, including information, advice, and direction regarding the coordination of services for the transportation disadvantaged. The commission may appoint other technical working groups whose members may include representatives of community transportation coordinators; metropolitan planning organizations; regional planning councils; experts in insurance, marketing, economic development, or financial planning; and persons who use transportation for the transportation disadvantaged, or their relatives, parents, guardians, or service professionals who tend to their needs.

(9) The commission is assigned to the office of the secretary of the Department of Transportation for administrative and fiscal accountability purposes, but it shall otherwise function independently of the control, supervision, and direction of the department.

(10) The commission shall develop a budget pursuant to chapter 216. The budget is not subject to change by the department staff after it has been approved by the commission, but it shall be transmitted to the Governor, as head of the department, along with the budget of the department.

History.—ss. 2, 8, 9, ch. 79-180; s. 5, ch. 80-414; s. 73, ch. 81-167; s. 76, ch. 83-55; ss. 2, 3, ch. 84-56; ss. 2, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 29, ch. 91-282; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 83, ch. 92-152; s. 64, ch. 94-237; s. 10, ch. 96-387; s. 204, ch. 99-8; s. 118, ch. 99-385; s. 9, ch. 2005-255; s. 1, ch. 2006-61; s. 3, ch. 2008-203; s. 342, ch. 2011-142; s. 59, ch. 2012-5; s. 242, ch. 2014-19; s. 49, ch. 2021-25.

427.013 The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged; purpose and responsibilities.—The purpose of the commission is to accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The goal of this coordination is to assure the cost-effective provision of transportation by qualified community transportation coordinators or transportation operators for the transportation disadvantaged without any bias or presumption in favor of multioperator systems or not-for-profit transportation operators over single operator systems or for-profit transportation operators. In carrying out this purpose, the commission shall:

- (1) Compile all available information on the transportation operations for and needs of the transportation disadvantaged in the state.
- (2) Establish statewide objectives for providing transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged.
- (3) Develop policies and procedures for the coordination of local government, federal, and state funding for the transportation disadvantaged.
- (4) Identify barriers prohibiting the coordination and accessibility of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged and aggressively pursue the elimination of these barriers.
- (5) Serve as a clearinghouse for information about transportation disadvantaged services, training, funding sources, innovations, and coordination efforts.
- (6) Assist communities in developing transportation systems designed to serve the transportation disadvantaged.
- (7) Unless otherwise provided by state or federal law, ensure that all procedures, guidelines, and directives issued by purchasing agencies are conducive to the coordination of transportation services.
- (8)(a) Ensure that purchasing agencies purchase all trips within the coordinated system, unless they have fulfilled the requirements of s. 427.0135(3) and use a more cost-effective alternative provider that meets comparable quality and standards.
- (b) Unless the purchasing agency has negotiated with the commission pursuant to the requirements of s. 427.0135(3), provide, by rule, criteria and procedures for purchasing agencies to use if they wish to use an alternative provider. Agencies must demonstrate that the proposed alternative provider can provide a trip of comparable quality and standards for the clients at a lower

cost than that provided within the coordinated system, or that the coordinated system cannot accommodate the agency's clients.

(9) Unless the purchasing agency has negotiated with the commission pursuant to the requirements of s. 427.0135(3), develop by rule standards for community transportation coordinators and any transportation operator or coordination contractor from whom service is purchased or arranged by the community transportation coordinator covering coordination, operation, safety, insurance, eligibility for service, costs, and utilization of transportation disadvantaged services. These standards and rules must include, but are not limited to:

(a) Minimum performance standards for the delivery of services. These standards must be included in coordinator contracts and transportation operator contracts with clear penalties for repeated or continuing violations.

(b) Minimum liability insurance requirements for all transportation services purchased, provided, or coordinated for the transportation disadvantaged through the community transportation coordinator.

(10) Adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of ss. 427.011-427.017.

(11) Approve the appointment of all community transportation coordinators.

(12) Have the authority to apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and services from the Federal Government, state government, local governments, or private funding sources. Applications by the commission for local government funds shall be coordinated through the appropriate coordinating board. Funds acquired or accepted under this subsection shall be administered by the commission and shall be used to carry out the commission's responsibilities.

(13) Make an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 of each year.

(14) Consolidate, for each state agency, the amounts of each agency's actual expenditures, together with the actual expenditures of each local government and directly federally funded agency and the amounts collected by each official planning agency.

(15) Prepare a statewide 5-year transportation disadvantaged plan which addresses the transportation problems and needs of the transportation disadvantaged, which is fully coordinated with local transit plans, compatible with local government comprehensive plans, and which ensures that the most cost-effective and efficient method of providing transportation to the disadvantaged is programmed for development.

(16) Review and approve memorandums of agreement for the provision of coordinated transportation services.

(17) Review, monitor, and coordinate all transportation disadvantaged local government, state, and federal fund requests and plans for conformance with commission policy, without delaying the application process. Such funds shall be available only to those entities participating in an approved coordinated transportation system or entities which have received a commission-

approved waiver to obtain all or part of their transportation through another means. This process shall identify procedures for coordinating with the state's intergovernmental coordination and review procedures and s. 216.212(1) and any other appropriate grant review process.

(18) Develop an interagency uniform contracting and billing and accounting system that shall be used by all community transportation coordinators and their transportation operators.

(19) Develop and maintain a transportation disadvantaged manual.

(20) Design and develop transportation disadvantaged training programs.

(21) Coordinate all transportation disadvantaged programs with appropriate state, local, and federal agencies and public transit agencies to ensure compatibility with existing transportation systems.

(22) Designate the official planning agency in areas outside of the purview of a metropolitan planning organization.

(23) Develop need-based criteria that must be used by all community transportation coordinators to prioritize the delivery of nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services that are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund moneys.

(24) Establish a review procedure to compare the rates proposed by alternate transportation operators with the rates charged by a community transportation coordinator to determine which rate is more cost-effective.

(25) Conduct a cost-comparison study of single-coordinator, multicoordinator, and brokered community transportation coordinator networks to ensure that the most cost-effective and efficient method of providing transportation to the transportation disadvantaged is programmed for development.

(26) Develop a quality assurance and management review program to monitor, based upon approved commission standards, services contracted for by an agency, and those provided by a community transportation operator pursuant to s. 427.0155.

(27) Ensure that local community transportation coordinators work cooperatively with local workforce development boards established in chapter 445 to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for participants in the welfare transition program.

(28) In consultation with the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Transportation, develop an allocation methodology that equitably distributes all transportation funds under the control of the commission to compensate counties, community transportation coordinators, and other entities providing transportation disadvantaged services. The methodology shall separately account for Medicaid beneficiaries. The methodology shall consider such factors as the actual costs of each transportation disadvantaged trip based on prior-year information, efficiencies that a provider might adopt to reduce costs, results of the rate and cost comparisons conducted under subsections (24) and (25), as well as cost efficiencies of trips when compared to

the local cost of transporting the general public. This subsection does not supersede the authority of the Agency for Health Care Administration to distribute Medicaid funds.

(29) Incur expenses for the purchase of advertisements, marketing services, and promotional items.

History.—ss. 3, 9, ch. 79-180; s. 6, ch. 80-414; s. 274, ch. 81-259; ss. 1, 3, ch. 84-56; ss. 3, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 84, ch. 92-152; s. 65, ch. 94-237; s. 17, ch. 98-57; s. 113, ch. 98-200; s. 119, ch. 99-385; s. 102, ch. 2000-165; s. 25, ch. 2000-266; s. 2, ch. 2006-61; s. 4, ch. 2008-203; s. 105, ch. 2016-62; s. 21, ch. 2016-216; s. 47, ch. 2017-71; s. 73, ch. 2018-10; s. 9, ch. 2020-3.

427.0135 Purchasing agencies; duties and responsibilities.—Each purchasing agency, in carrying out the policies and procedures of the commission, shall:

(1) Use the coordinated transportation system for provision of services to its clients, unless each department or purchasing agency meets the criteria outlined in rule or statute to use an alternative provider.

(2) Pay the rates established in the service plan or negotiated statewide contract, unless the purchasing agency has completed the procedure for using an alternative provider and demonstrated that a proposed alternative provider can provide a more cost-effective transportation service of comparable quality and standards or unless the agency has satisfied the requirements of subsection (3).

(3) Not procure transportation disadvantaged services without initially negotiating with the commission, as provided in s. 287.057(3)(e)12., or unless otherwise authorized by statute. If the purchasing agency, after consultation with the commission, determines that it cannot reach mutually acceptable contract terms with the commission, the purchasing agency may contract for the same transportation services provided in a more cost-effective manner and of comparable or higher quality and standards. The Medicaid agency shall implement this subsection in a manner consistent with s. 409.908(18) and as otherwise limited or directed by the General Appropriations Act.

(4) Identify in the legislative budget request provided to the Governor each year for the General Appropriations Act the specific amount of money the purchasing agency will allocate to provide transportation disadvantaged services.

(5) Provide the commission, by September 15 of each year, an accounting of all funds spent as well as how many trips were purchased with agency funds.

(6) Assist communities in developing coordinated transportation systems designed to serve the transportation disadvantaged. However, a purchasing agency may not serve as the community transportation coordinator in any designated service area.

(7) Ensure that its rules, procedures, guidelines, and directives are conducive to the coordination of transportation funds and services for the transportation disadvantaged.

(8) Provide technical assistance, as needed, to community transportation coordinators or transportation operators or participating agencies.

History.—ss. 4, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 66, ch. 94-237; s. 4, ch. 95-394; s. 10, ch. 96-417; s. 26, ch. 2000-266; s. 5, ch. 2008-203; s. 34, ch. 2010-151; s. 16, ch. 2013-154; s. 32, ch. 2016-65; s. 26, ch. 2017-129.

427.015 Function of the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency in coordinating transportation for the transportation disadvantaged.—

(1) In developing the transportation improvement program, each metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency in this state shall include a realistic estimate of the cost and revenue that will be derived from transportation disadvantaged services in its area. The transportation improvement program shall also identify transportation improvements that will be advanced with such funds during the program period. Funds required by this subsection to be included in the transportation improvement program shall only be included after consultation with all affected agencies and shall only be expended if such funds are included in the transportation improvement program.

(2) Each metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency shall recommend to the commission a single community transportation coordinator. However, a purchasing agency may not serve as the community transportation coordinator in any designated service area. The coordinator may provide all or a portion of needed transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged but shall be responsible for the provision of those coordinated services. Based on approved commission evaluation criteria, the coordinator shall subcontract or broker those services that are more cost-effectively and efficiently provided by subcontracting or brokering. The performance of the coordinator shall be evaluated based on the commission's approved evaluation criteria by the coordinating board at least annually. A copy of the evaluation shall be submitted to the metropolitan planning organization or the designated official planning agency, and the commission. The recommendation or termination of any community transportation coordinator shall be subject to approval by the commission.

(3) Each metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency shall request each local government in its jurisdiction to provide the actual expenditures of all local and direct federal funds to be expended for transportation for the disadvantaged. The metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency shall consolidate this information into a single report and forward it, by September 15, to the commission.

History.—ss. 6, 9, ch. 79-180; ss. 1, 3, ch. 84-56; ss. 5, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 67, ch. 94-237; s. 27, ch. 2000-266; s. 6, ch. 2008-203.

427.0155 Community transportation coordinators; powers and duties.—Community transportation coordinators shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Execute uniform contracts for service using a standard contract, which includes performance standards for operators.
- (2) Collect annual operating data for submittal to the commission.
- (3) Review all transportation operator contracts annually.

- (4) Approve and coordinate the utilization of school bus and public transportation services in accordance with the transportation disadvantaged service plan.
- (5) In cooperation with a functioning coordinating board, review all applications for local government, federal, and state transportation disadvantaged funds, and develop cost-effective coordination strategies.
- (6) In cooperation with, and approved by, the coordinating board, develop, negotiate, implement, and monitor a memorandum of agreement including a service plan, for submittal to the commission.
- (7) In cooperation with the coordinating board and pursuant to criteria developed by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, establish eligibility guidelines and priorities with regard to the recipients of nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services that are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund moneys.
- (8) Have full responsibility for the delivery of transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged as outlined in s. 427.015(2).
- (9) Work cooperatively with local workforce development boards established in chapter 445 to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for participants in the welfare transition program.

History.—ss. 6, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 85, ch. 92-152; s. 68, ch. 94-237; s. 18, ch. 98-57; s. 103, ch. 2000-165; s. 7, ch. 2008-203; s. 22, ch. 2016-216.

427.0157 Coordinating boards; powers and duties.—The purpose of each coordinating board is to develop local service needs and to provide information, advice, and direction to the community transportation coordinators on the coordination of services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The commission shall, by rule, establish the membership of coordinating boards. The members of each board shall be appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency. The appointing authority shall provide each board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities under this section. Each board shall meet at least quarterly and shall:

- (1) Review and approve the coordinated community transportation disadvantaged service plan, including the memorandum of agreement, prior to submittal to the commission;
- (2) Evaluate services provided in meeting the approved plan;
- (3) In cooperation with the community transportation coordinator, review and provide recommendations to the commission on funding applications affecting the transportation disadvantaged;
- (4) Assist the community transportation coordinator in establishing eligibility guidelines and priorities with regard to the recipients of nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services that are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund moneys.
- (5) Review the coordination strategies of service provision to the transportation disadvantaged in the designated service area; and

- (6) Evaluate multicounty or regional transportation opportunities.
- (7) Work cooperatively with local workforce development boards established in chapter 445 to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for participants in the welfare transition program.

History.—ss. 7, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 86, ch. 92-152; s. 19, ch. 98-57; s. 104, ch. 2000-165; s. 8, ch. 2008-203; s. 23, ch. 2016-216.

427.0158 School bus and public transportation.—

(1) The community transportation coordinator shall maximize the use of public school transportation and public fixed route or fixed schedule transit service for the transportation of the transportation disadvantaged.

(2) The school boards shall cooperate in the utilization of their vehicles to enhance coordinated transportation disadvantaged services by providing information as requested by the community transportation coordinator and by allowing the use of their vehicles at actual cost upon request when those vehicles are available for such use and are not transporting students.

(3) The public transit fixed route or fixed schedule system shall cooperate in the utilization of its regular service to enhance coordinated transportation disadvantaged services by providing the information as requested by the community transportation coordinator. The community transportation coordinator may request, without limitation, the following information:

- (a) A copy of all current schedules, route maps, system map, and fare structure;
- (b) A copy of the current charter policy;
- (c) A copy of the current charter rates and hour requirements; and
- (d) Required notification time to arrange for a charter.

History.—ss. 8, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 9, ch. 2008-203.

¹427.0159 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.—

(1) There is established in the State Treasury the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund to be administered by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. All fees collected for the transportation disadvantaged program under s. 320.03(9) shall be deposited in the trust fund.

(2) Funds deposited in the trust fund shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the commission and shall be used to carry out the responsibilities of the commission and to fund the administrative expenses of the commission.

(3) Funds deposited in the trust fund may be used by the commission to subsidize a portion of a transportation disadvantaged person's transportation costs which is not sponsored by an agency, only if a cash or in-kind match is required. Funds for nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services shall be distributed based upon the need of the recipient and according to criteria developed by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

(4) A purchasing agency may deposit funds into the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund for the commission to implement, manage, and administer the purchasing agency's transportation disadvantaged funds, as defined in s. 427.011(10).

History.—ss. 9, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 87, ch. 92-152; s. 69, ch. 94-237; s. 21, ch. 2000-257; s. 61, ch. 2001-62; s. 10, ch. 2008-203.

¹**Note.**—Section 22, ch. 2000-257, provides that “[n]otwithstanding any other law to the contrary the requirements of sections 206.46(3) and 206.606(2), Florida Statutes, shall not apply to any funding, programs, or other provisions contained in this act.”

427.016 Expenditure of local government, state, and federal funds for the transportation disadvantaged.—

(1)(a) All transportation disadvantaged funds expended within the state shall be expended to purchase transportation services from community transportation coordinators or public, private, or private nonprofit transportation operators within the coordinated transportation system, except when the rates charged by proposed alternate operators are proven, pursuant to rules generated by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, to be more cost-effective and are not a risk to the public health, safety, or welfare. However, in areas where transportation suited to the unique needs of a transportation disadvantaged person cannot be purchased through the coordinated system, or where the agency has met the rule criteria for using an alternative provider, the service may be contracted for directly by the appropriate agency.

(b) This subsection does not preclude a purchasing agency from establishing maximum fee schedules, individualized reimbursement policies by provider type, negotiated fees, or any other mechanism, including contracting after initial negotiation with the commission, which the agency considers more cost-effective and of comparable or higher quality and standards than those of the commission for the purchase of services on behalf of its clients if it has fulfilled the requirements of s. 427.0135(3) or the procedure for using an alternative provider. State and local agencies shall not contract for any transportation disadvantaged services, including Medicaid reimbursable transportation services, with any community transportation coordinator or transportation operator that has been determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Legal Affairs Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, or any state or federal agency to have engaged in any abusive or fraudulent billing activities.

(2) Each year, each agency, whether or not it is an ex officio, nonvoting adviser to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, shall identify in the legislative budget request provided to the Governor for the General Appropriations Act the specific amount of any money the agency will allocate for the provision of transportation disadvantaged services. Additionally, each state agency shall, by September 15 of each year, provide the commission with an accounting of the actual amount of funds expended and the total number of trips purchased.

(3) Each metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency shall annually compile a report accounting for all local government and direct federal funds for transportation for the disadvantaged expended in its jurisdiction and forward this report by September 15 to the commission.

History.—ss. 5, 9, ch. 79-180; ss. 1, 3, ch. 84-56; ss. 10, 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 88, ch. 92-152; s. 70, ch. 94-237; s. 5, ch. 95-394; s. 11, ch. 2008-203.

427.017 Conflicts with federal laws or regulations.—Upon notification by an agency of the Federal Government that any provision of this act conflicts with federal laws or regulations, the state or local agencies involved may take any reasonable steps necessary to assure continued federal funding. Further, it is the legislative intent that the conflict shall not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can effectively be implemented without implementation of the provision in question, and to this end, the provisions of this act are declared severable.

History.—ss. 7, 9, ch. 79-180; ss. 1, 3, ch. 84-56; s. 14, ch. 89-376; s. 5, ch. 91-429.