

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/HB 95 — C-51 Reservoir Project

by State Affairs Committee; Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; and Rep. Jacobs and others (CS/CS/SB 92 by Appropriations; Environment and Natural Resources; and Senators Book and Mayfield)

The bill authorizes the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to acquire any portion of the C-51 reservoir project not already committed to utilities for alternative water supply purposes. The bill authorizes the SFWMD to acquire land near the C-51 reservoir project through the purchase or exchange of land owned by the SFWMD or state as necessary to implement any part of the project. Previously, these authorizations pertained only to Phase II of the project.

The bill requires the operation of Phase I of the C-51 reservoir project to be in accordance with any operation and maintenance agreement approved by the SFWMD. Water made available by the reservoir must be used for natural systems in addition to any permitted amounts for water supply. Water in the reservoir that is received from Lake Okeechobee may be made available to support consumptive use permits, but only if such use is in accordance with the SFWMD's rules.

The bill authorizes Phase II of the C-51 reservoir project to be funded by appropriation in addition to the existing authorized funding sources.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 38-1; House 112-0

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

SB 320 — Residential Conservation Programs

by Senator Hooper

The bill authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to organize, staff, equip, and operate residential conservation programs to provide education and training about fish and wildlife conservation to the public, commission employees, and volunteers. The bill provides explicit statutory authorization to the commission to support its long history of providing these programs.

The bill authorizes the commission to establish cooperative efforts with federal, state, and local entities; procure commodities and contractual services such as travel, lodging, and meal services; and hire and train appropriate personnel and volunteers to support these programs.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 117-0

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/HB 325 — Coastal Management

by State Affairs Committee and Rep. LaMarca and others (SB 446 by Senators Mayfield, Hutson, Wright, Book, Broxson, and Rodriguez)

The bill amends the criteria the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) must consider when determining annual funding priorities for beach management projects. Under the bill, DEP is required to implement a new scoring system consisting of equally weighted criteria divided into four tiers to determine annual project funding priorities. The bill also amends related requirements for DEP regarding reporting, oversight, and the use of surplus funds.

The bill amends the criteria DEP must use to establish annual funding priorities for inlet management projects. The bill also amends related requirements for DEP regarding reporting and the amount of annual funding designated for inlet management projects.

The bill amends the requirements for DEP to develop and maintain the components of the comprehensive long-term beach management plan for the restoration and maintenance of Florida's critically eroded beaches. Under the bill, DEP must annually submit to the Legislature a 3-year work plan that lists beach restoration, beach nourishment, and inlet management projects in priority order based on the applicable criteria.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/HB 767 — Right of Entry

by Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; and Rep. Robinson (CS/CS/SB 1500 by Appropriations; Environment and Natural Resources; and Senator Simmons)

The bill releases the right of entry to any interest in phosphate, minerals, and metals, or any interest in petroleum, reserved for a local government, water management district, or other agency of the state, for any parcel of property that is or has ever been a contiguous tract of less than 20 acres in the aggregate under the same ownership.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 113-0

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/HB 771 — Environmental Regulation

by State Affairs Committee; Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; and Rep. Overdorf and others (CS/SB 816 by Environment and Natural Resources and Senator Perry)

The bill requires local governments to address the contamination of recyclable material in contracts for the collection, transportation, and processing of residential recyclable material. The bill applies to contracts between a local government and a residential recycling collector or recovered materials processing facility that are executed or renewed after October 1, 2019. Such contracts are required to define the term “contaminated recyclable material” based on certain factors. The bill specifies topics that must be addressed in local governments’ contracts with residential recycling collectors or recovered materials processing facilities.

The bill prohibits local governments from requiring a person claiming certain exceptions from environmental permitting requirements to provide further verification from the Department of Environmental Protection. The bill also changes the specific requirements for the replacement or repair of a dock or pier that is exempt from permitting requirements.

The bill creates a moratorium, expiring July 1, 2024, prohibiting local governments from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or other local regulation relating to single-use plastic straws. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is required to conduct a study of each ordinance or regulation adopted by local governments in Florida that restricts or prohibits the use of single-use plastic straws and submit a report on its findings to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2019.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 24-15; House 87-23

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

SB 1552 — Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative

by Senators Gruters and Hooper

The bill establishes the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative as a partnership between the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Mote Marine Laboratory. The purpose of the initiative is to develop technologies and approaches needed to address the control and mitigation of red tide and its impacts. The bill requires funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature for the initiative to be awarded by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute to Mote Marine Laboratory to achieve the goals of the initiative. The bill establishes within the initiative the Initiative Technology Advisory Council.

The bill requires the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative to submit an annual report, beginning January 15, 2021, containing an overview of the initiative's accomplishments and priorities to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of Environmental Protection, and the Executive Director of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The section authorizing the initiative expires on June 30, 2025.

The bill provides for an annual appropriation of \$3 million beginning in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and going through the 2024-2025 fiscal year, from the General Revenue Fund to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the purpose of implementing the bill.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 112-1

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/CS/SB 1666 — Vessels

by Rules Committee; Community Affairs Committee; Environment and Natural Resources Committee; and Senators Flores and Pizzo

The bill revises provisions relating to vessels, specifically relating to the following issues:

- Boater safety education:
 - The bill establishes criteria for obtaining a temporary certificate for boater safety education which is valid for 90 days.
 - The bill provides that boating safety identification cards and temporary certificates may be issued in a digital, electronic, or paper format.
 - The bill authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to appoint agents to administer qualifying boating safety education and temporary certificate requirements. Agents must charge a \$2 fee and may charge a \$1 service fee for each boating safety education card or temporary certificate issued.
- Long-term stored vessels:
 - The bill defines the term “long-term stored vessel” to mean a vessel which has remained anchored or moored outside of a public mooring field without supervision or control for at least 30 days out of a 60-day period.
 - The bill requires FWC to conduct a study, contingent upon appropriation, on the impacts of long-term stored vessels on local communities and the state, and to present the report to the Governor and Legislature.
- No-discharge zones:
 - The bill authorizes, upon federal approval, counties designated as rural areas of opportunity to create within their jurisdiction a “no-discharge zone” where treated and untreated sewage discharges are prohibited for specified vessels.
 - The bill requires vessel operators within a no-discharge zone to keep sewage discharges onboard for discharge at specified locations.
 - The bill imposes a civil penalty if an unlawful discharge is made in a no-discharge zone.
- Vessel registration fees:
 - The bill requires a certain portion of vessel registration fees designated for use by the counties to be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to fund grants for derelict vessel removal. Undisbursed balances from vessel registration fees may be reapportioned to fund the Florida Boating Improvement Program or public boating access. Appropriated funds not utilized by local governments for derelict vessel removal by a certain time may be used by FWC to remove derelict vessels.
- Derelict vessels:
 - The bill prohibits a person who leaves or abandons a derelict vessel from residing or dwelling on the vessel until it is permanently removed from state waters or returned to waters in a non-derelict condition.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 114-0

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

SR 1820 — Moratorium on Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico

by Senator Hooper

SR 1820 states that:

- The State of Florida must maintain a united front in supporting an extension of the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line;
- To allow drilling east of the Military Mission Line would mean loss of range areas and possible relocation of aircraft and bases to other unrestricted range areas; and
- The Florida Senate supports an indefinite extension of the restriction, specified in the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), on oil and gas leasing in all areas east of the Military Mission Line and an indefinite extension of GOMESA's ban on oil and gas leasing within 125 miles of the Florida coastline in the Eastern Planning Area and in a portion of the Central Planning Area.

Vote: Senate Adopted.