

By Representatives Maygarden, Melvin, Burroughs and
Ritchie

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to Escambia County; conveying
an easement in sovereignty submerged lands to
the county; permitting the maintenance and
operation of the Old Pensacola Bay Bridge for
public recreational use; providing for private
entities to maintain and operate the bridge
under contract with the county; providing
severability; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, title to one concrete and steel bridge
structure, formerly conveying U.S. Highway 98, commonly known
and referred to as the Old Pensacola Bay Bridge, over
Pensacola Bay constructed across certain portions of Sections
18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, in Township 2 South, Range
29 West, was vested in Escambia County by chapter 61-676, Laws
of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the center part of said structure was removed
to aid navigation on Pensacola Bay, and

WHEREAS, title to part of the concrete and steel bridge
structure, formerly conveying U.S. Highway 98, commonly known
as the Old Pensacola Bay Bridge, which is in Santa Rosa County
and attached to the shore line of Pensacola Bay in Santa Rosa
County was vested in Santa Rosa County by chapter 63-1042,
Laws of Florida, together with a perpetual easement in favor
of Santa Rosa County over sovereignty submerged lands, which
permitted a lease of that part of the bridge to the City of
Gulf Breeze to operate that part of the bridge as a fishing
pier with no restrictions, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

1 Section 1. A perpetual easement over sovereignty
2 submerged lands is hereby granted and conveyed to Escambia
3 County to permit the maintenance and operation of the Old
4 Pensacola Bay Bridge for public recreational use, including,
5 but not limited to, primary use of the bridge as a fishing
6 pier and related secondary uses. No restrictions shall attach
7 or apply to said perpetual easement unless otherwise provided
8 herein.

9 Section 2. In the event Escambia County contracts with
10 private entities to operate and maintain the Old Pensacola Bay
11 Bridge, the private entity shall also be vested with the legal
12 right to use of the easement area as herein provided in
13 accordance with the terms and conditions of any contractual
14 agreement between Escambia County and the private entity.

15 Section 3. If any provision of this act or the
16 application thereof to any person, entity, or circumstance is
17 held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions
18 or applications of the act which can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application and, to that end, the
20 provisions of this act are declared severable.

21 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
22 law.