

By Representative Safley

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to oil and gas drilling;
 3 amending s. 377.2425, F.S.; revising surety
 4 requirements for drilling permittees; providing
 5 an effective date.

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

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 9 Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (1) of
 10 section 377.2425, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read:

11 377.2425 Manner of providing security for geophysical
 12 exploration, drilling, and production.--

13 (1) Prior to granting a permit to conduct geophysical
 14 operations; drilling of exploratory, injection, or production
 15 wells; producing oil and gas from a wellhead; or transporting
 16 oil and gas through a field-gathering system, the department
 17 shall require the applicant or operator to provide surety that
 18 these operations will be conducted in a safe and
 19 environmentally compatible manner.

20 (c) An applicant for a drilling or operating permit
 21 for operations planned in waters of the state or under other
 22 particular circumstances that by their nature warrant greater
 23 surety shall provide surety only in accordance with paragraph
 24 (a), or similar proof of financial responsibility other than
 25 as provided in paragraph (b). For all applications under this
 26 subsection, and notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph
 27 (b), the Governor and Cabinet in their capacity as the
 28 Administration Commission shall set the amount of surety
 29 required under this subsection, giving special consideration
 30 to the extent of possible damages, the cost of clean-up, and
 31 the replacement value of natural resources lost to the public.

