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2 An act relating to the Coastal Zone Protection  
3 Act; amending s. 161.54, F.S.; redefining the  
4 term "substantial improvement"; providing an  
5 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. Subsection (12) of section 161.54, Florida  
10 Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

11 161.54 Definitions.--In construing ss. 161.52-161.58:

12 (12) "Substantial improvement" means any repair,  
13 reconstruction, rehabilitation, or improvement of a structure  
14 when, ~~where~~ the actual cost of the improvement or repair of  
15 the structure to its pre-damage condition equals or exceeds,  
16 ~~over a 5-year period, a cumulative total of~~ 50 percent of the  
17 market value of the structure either:

18 (a) Before the improvement or repair is started; or

19 (b) If the structure has been damaged and is being  
20 restored, before the damage occurred.

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22 The ~~cumulative~~ total cost does not include nonstructural  
23 interior finishings, including, but not limited to, finish  
24 flooring and floor coverings, base molding, nonstructural  
25 substrates, drywall, plaster, paneling, wall covering,  
26 tapestries, window treatments, decorative masonry, paint,  
27 interior doors, tile, cabinets, moldings and millwork,  
28 decorative metal work, vanities, electrical receptacles,  
29 electrical switches, electrical fixtures, intercoms,  
30 communications and sound systems, security systems, HVAC  
31 grills and decorative trim, freestanding metal fireplaces,

1 appliances, water closets, tubs and shower enclosures,  
2 lavatories, and water heaters, or roof coverings, except when  
3 determining whether the structure has been substantially  
4 improved as a result of a single improvement or repair.

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6 For the purposes of this definition, "substantial improvement"  
7 is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall,  
8 ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building  
9 commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external  
10 dimensions of the structure. The term does not, however,  
11 include either any project for improvement of a structure to  
12 comply with existing state or local health, sanitary, or  
13 safety code specifications which are solely necessary to  
14 assure safe living conditions or any alteration of a structure  
15 listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the  
16 State Inventory of Historic Places.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
18 law.

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