

By Representative Melvin

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to navigational access
3 channels; providing legislative intent;
4 exempting a specified residential community in
5 Santa Rosa County from requirements relating to
6 construction, connection, and maintenance of
7 navigational access channels; exempting such
8 residential community from fee and permitting
9 requirements of chs. 161, 253, and 403, F.S.,
10 regulating construction, connection, and
11 maintenance of navigational access channels;
12 providing for the construction, connection, and
13 maintenance of navigational access channels
14 from manmade canals within such residential
15 area; specifying the dimensions of such access
16 channels; requiring the Department of
17 Environmental Protection to use the project
18 undertaken pursuant to the act as a pilot
19 project; providing an effective date.

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

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23 Section 1. (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent
24 of the Legislature that the residential community of Santa
25 Rosa Shores, located in Santa Rosa County, be exempt from the
26 requirements related to construction, connection, or
27 maintenance of navigational access channels to or within the
28 waters of the state because of the circumstances of their
29 original construction and sales. It is the further intent of
30 the Legislature that the residential community of Santa Rosa
31 Shores, located in Santa Rosa County, be exempt from the

1 permitting requirements and fees set forth in chapters 161,
2 253, and 403, Florida Statutes, or other sections of Florida
3 Statutes regulating construction, connection, and maintenance
4 of navigational access channels in or through waters of the
5 state from manmade canals within this residential area.

6 (2) PURPOSE.--

7 (a) The residential community of Santa Rosa Shores,
8 located in Santa Rosa County, shall be exempt from the
9 requirements related to construction, connection, or
10 maintenance of navigational access channels to or within the
11 waters of the state.

12 (b) The residential community of Santa Rosa Shores,
13 located in Santa Rosa County, shall be exempt from the
14 permitting requirements and fees set forth in chapters 161,
15 253, and 403, Florida Statutes, or other sections of Florida
16 Statutes regulating construction, connection, and maintenance
17 of navigational access channels in or through waters of the
18 state from manmade canals within the residential area of Santa
19 Rosa Shores.

20 (c) With respect to each manmade canal within the
21 residential community of Santa Rosa Shores, located in Santa
22 Rosa County, which is or has been previously connected to
23 waters of the state prior to the effective date of this act,
24 the construction, connection, and maintenance of a
25 navigational access channel 50 feet in width and dredged to a
26 mean low-water depth of 6 feet is permitted for the purpose of
27 providing continuous deep-water navigational passage from
28 manmade canals directly to the 6-foot mean low-water depth
29 contour of continuously navigable water, restoring water
30 quality and viable marine habitat within the canal system, and
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1 preventing further grassbed deterioration within the access
2 route to deep water.

3 Section 2. The Department of Environmental Protection
4 shall use the project undertaken pursuant to section 1 as a
5 pilot project for the purpose of determining the best
6 management practices for the propagation of submerged
7 seagrasses in the vicinity of the channel access site in the
8 residential community of Santa Rosa Shores, located in Santa
9 Rosa County, as described in section 1 of this act.

10 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
11 law.

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13 HOUSE SUMMARY

14 Exempts the residential community of Santa Rosa Shores,
15 located in Santa Rosa County, from requirements relating
16 to construction, connection, and maintenance of
17 navigational access channels. Exempts such residential
18 community from fee and permitting requirements of chs.
19 161, 253, and 403, F.S., regulating construction,
20 connection, and maintenance of navigational access
21 channels. Provides for the construction, connection, and
22 maintenance of navigational access channels from manmade
23 canals within such residential area. Specifies the
24 dimensions of such access channels. Requires the
25 Department of Environmental Protection to use the project
26 undertaken pursuant to the act as a pilot project.