

By Senator Latvala

19-1639-00

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to lighthouses; directing the
3 Department of Community Affairs and the
4 Department of State to conduct a study of
5 lighthouses in the state; providing for
6 planning and funding responsibilities;
7 directing each department to make a budget
8 request for funding purposes; providing an
9 effective date.

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11 WHEREAS, Florida is a maritime state and has depended
12 on the sea for commerce and transportation throughout its
13 history, and

14 WHEREAS, lighthouses have facilitated that maritime
15 development, saving many lives and vessels, and

16 WHEREAS, many historic lighthouses in this state are in
17 poor and unstable condition, and

18 WHEREAS, it is declared to be the public policy of the
19 state to identify historic lighthouses, assess their
20 condition, stabilize them, and make them available to the
21 public in recognition of the history and heritage of Florida,
22 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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26 Section 1. (1) The Coastal Management Program of the
27 Department of Community Affairs and the Division of Historical
28 Resources of the Department of State shall undertake a study
29 of the lighthouses in the state. The study must determine the
30 location, ownership, condition, and historical significance of
31 all lighthouses in the state and ensure that all historically

1 significant lighthouses are nominated for inclusion on the
2 National Register of Historic Places. The study must assess
3 the condition and restoration needs of historic lighthouses
4 and develop plans for appropriate future public access and
5 use. The Coastal Management Program and the Division of
6 Historical Resources shall take a leadership role in
7 implementing plans to stabilize lighthouses and associated
8 structures and to preserve and protect them from future
9 deterioration. When possible, the lighthouses and associated
10 buildings should be made available to the public for
11 educational and recreational purposes. The Department of
12 Community Affairs should consider these responsibilities to be
13 a priority of the Florida Coastal Management Program and
14 implementation of this act should be a priority in the use of
15 Coastal Management funds.

16 (2) The Department of Community Affairs and the
17 Department of State shall request in their annual legislative
18 budget requests funding necessary to carry out the duties and
19 responsibilities specified in this act. Funds for the
20 rehabilitation of lighthouses should be allocated through
21 matching grants-in-aid to state and local government agencies
22 and to nonprofit organizations. The Department of Community
23 Affairs may assist the Division of Historical Resources in
24 projects to accomplish lighthouse identification, assessment,
25 restoration, and interpretation.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
27 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Directs the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of State to conduct a study of lighthouses in the state and plan for the funding, restoration, and public access and use of the facilities.