

By Senator Latvala

19-926-01

See HB

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
6 requirements of the study; providing for
7 planning and funding responsibilities;
8 directing each department to make a budget
9 request for funding purposes; providing an
10 effective date.

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

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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

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

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

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HOUSE 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.