

By Senator Bennett

21-1188-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to protection of manatees;
3 amending s. 370.12, F.S.; requiring that
4 measurable biological goals for manatee
5 recovery adopted under the Florida Endangered
6 and Threatened Species Act be used by the Fish
7 and Wildlife Conservation Commission when
8 evaluating existing and proposed
9 manatee-protection rules; directing that
10 existing manatee-protection rules be presumed
11 adequate and additional rules unnecessary in a
12 region where the measurable biological goals
13 are being achieved; providing that the
14 presumption does not prevent the commission
15 from addressing manatee issues within that
16 region; defining the term "region" for purposes
17 of the act; providing an effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. Paragraph (u) is added to subsection (2) of
22 section 370.12, Florida Statutes, to read:

23 370.12 Marine animals; regulation.--

24 (2) PROTECTION OF MANATEES OR SEA COWS.--

25 (u)1. The measurable biological goals for manatee
26 recovery adopted under s. 372.072(6) shall be used by the
27 commission when evaluating existing and proposed manatee
28 protection rules. Existing manatee protection rules shall be
29 presumed to be adequate and additional rules unnecessary in a
30 region where the measurable biological goals are being
31 achieved. However, the presumption does not prevent the

1 commission from addressing unique issues concerning manatees
2 within a region.

3 2. As used in this paragraph, the term "region" means
4 one of the four geographic areas defined by the United States
5 Fish and Wildlife Service in the Florida Manatee Recovery
6 Plan, 3rd revision (October 30, 2001).

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
8 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

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Provides that measurable biological goals for manatee recovery adopted under the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species Act must be used by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission when evaluating existing and proposed manatee-protection rules. Directs that existing manatee-protection rules are presumed to be adequate and additional rules unnecessary in a region where the measurable biological goals are being achieved. Provides that the presumption does not prevent the commission from addressing unique manatee issues within that region.