

Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Needelman offered the following:

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3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 On page 4, line 21, through page 7, line 25,
5 remove: all of said lines

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7 and insert:

8 contract with a Florida marine research institution to conduct a
9 manatee habitat and submerged aquatic vegetation assessment that
10 specifically considers:

11 1. Manatee populations that congregate in the warm water
12 discharge sites at power plants in the state and the potential
13 risks for disease resulting from increased congregation of
14 manatees at these sites;

15 2. Development of research, monitoring, and submerged
16 aquatic vegetation restoration priorities for manatee habitat in

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17 and near the warm water discharge sites at power plants in the
18 state; and

19 3. The potential impacts on manatees and manatee habitat
20 if power plants that provide warm water discharge sites where
21 manatees congregate are closed, including how closure will
22 affect the size and health of submerged aquatic vegetation
23 areas.

24 (b) The Florida marine research institution must submit an
25 interim report on the manatee habitat and submerged aquatic
26 vegetation assessment to the Governor, the Legislature, and the
27 commission by September 1, 2006. The interim report must detail
28 the progress of the assessment. The final report, due to the
29 Governor, the Legislature, and the commission by January 1,
30 2007, must detail the results of the assessment and include
31 recommendations for protection of manatee habitat in warm water
32 discharge sites at power plants in the state.

33 (c) The commission shall ensure that funds allocated to
34 implement the manatee habitat and submerged aquatic vegetation
35 assessment are expended in a manner that is consistent with the
36 requirements of this subsection. The commission may require an
37 annual audit of the expenditures made by a Florida marine
38 research institution. Copies of any audit requested under this
39 subsection must be provided to the appropriate substantive and
40 appropriations committees of the Senate and the House of
41 Representatives as they become available.

42 (3) As part of the enhanced manatee protection study, the
43 Legislature intends that the commission must conduct a signage
44 and boat speed assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of

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45 manatee protection signs and sign placement and to assess boat
46 speeds. The commission shall evaluate existing data on manatee
47 mortality before and after existing manatee protection zones
48 were established, boater compliance and comprehension of
49 regulatory signs and buoys, changes in boating traffic patterns,
50 and manatee distribution and behavior. The commission shall
51 also provide recommendations on innovative marker designs that
52 are in compliance with the federal aids to navigation system.

53 The signage and boat speed assessment must address:

54 (a) The effectiveness of signs and buoys to warn boaters
55 of manatee slow-speed zones, with a goal of developing federally
56 approved standards for marking manatee protection zones;

57 (b) A determination of where buoys may be used in place of
58 pilings for boating safety purposes; and

59 (c) An evaluation of higher speed travel corridors in
60 manatee zones to determine the most effective speed to balance
61 safe boating, recreational use, vessel operating
62 characteristics, and manatee protection.

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65 The commission shall complete its signage and boat speed
66 assessment by January 1, 2007, and must submit a report of its
67 findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
68 Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2007.

69 The report must detail the results of the assessment and
70 identify specific recommendations for developing state and local
71 policies relating to the appropriate placement of signs,
72 including innovative markers, in manatee slow-speed zones.

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73 (4) The commission is authorized to develop and implement
74 the use of genetic tagging to improve its ability to assess the
75 status and health of the manatee population, including the
76 health and reproductive capacity of manatees, estimating annual
77 survival rates through mark recapture studies, determining
78 migration patterns, and determining maternity and paternity.
79 The development and use of genetic tagging may be done in
80 cooperation with federal agencies or other entities, such as
81 genetic laboratories at schools within the State University
82 System.

83 Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 372.072, Florida
84 Statutes, is amended to read:

85 372.072 Endangered and Threatened Species Act.--

86 (6) MEASURABLE BIOLOGICAL GOALS.--~~No later than February~~
87 ~~15, 2003, the commission, working in conjunction with the United~~
88 ~~States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall develop measurable~~
89 ~~biological goals that define manatee recovery. These Measurable~~
90 biological goals that define manatee recovery developed by the
91 commission, working in conjunction with the United States Fish
92 and Wildlife Service, shall be used by the commission in its
93 development of management plans or work plans. In addition to
94 other criteria, these measurable biological goals shall be used
95 by the commission when evaluating existing and proposed
96 protection rules, and in determining progress in achieving
97 manatee recovery. Not later than July 1, 2005, the commission
98 shall develop rules to define how measurable biological goals
99 will be used by the commission when evaluating the need for
100 additional manatee protection rules.

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101 Section 4. Subject to an appropriation by the Legislature,
102 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall contract
103 with a Florida marine research institution to conduct the

104 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

105 On page 1, line(s) 23,
106 remove: all of said line

107
108 and insert: with a Florida marine research institution to
109 conduct a