

HB 0777

2004

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to working waterfronts; defining the term  
 3           "working waterfront"; providing requirements of counties  
 4           and governmental entities with respect to working  
 5           waterfronts; authorizing assessment of a fee to fund  
 6           public boat ramp construction; requiring a study and  
 7           report to the Governor and Legislature; providing an  
 8           effective date.

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 10           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes there is a significant  
 11           interest in the availability and economic impact of public  
 12           marinas and public boat ramps along the navigable waterways in  
 13           this state, and

14           WHEREAS, it is the interest of the Legislature that local  
 15           governmental comprehensive plans encourage the availability of  
 16           working waterfronts by means of restrictions or incentives, NOW,  
 17           THEREFORE,

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

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 21           Section 1.   Definition.--As used in this act, the term  
 22           "working waterfront" means a facility that requires direct  
 23           access to or location in marine waters and therefore cannot be  
 24           located inland, including, but not limited to, public marinas,  
 25           public boat ramps, boat hauling and repair facilities,  
 26           waterfront recreational facilities, commercial fishing  
 27           facilities, and boating facilities.

28           Section 2.   Requirements.--

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29       (1) For the purpose of funding public boat ramp  
 30 construction, a county government may assess up to an additional  
 31 \$10 for any vessel less than 40 feet long that can be  
 32 transported by a trailer within the jurisdiction of the county.

33       (2) Each county government through its comprehensive plan  
 34 is authorized to provide a sufficient number of boat ramps to  
 35 achieve a boat trailer parking capacity of 5 percent of the  
 36 registered available vessels within its jurisdiction by July 1,  
 37 2014.

38       (3) A governmental entity that removes a working  
 39 waterfront facility for any development and thereby limits  
 40 public access to the working waterfront must replace the  
 41 facility within its jurisdiction. The replacement facility must  
 42 be substantially the same, provide similar access to navigable  
 43 waterways, and be available for use when the existing working  
 44 waterfront facility is removed.

45       Section 3. Working waterfront study.--The Department of  
 46 Community Affairs shall commission a study on the economic  
 47 trends of the working waterfronts of the state and the impact  
 48 the loss of critical working waterfronts would have on the  
 49 state's economy. The study shall include, but not be limited to,  
 50 findings concerning coastal and waterway development trends and  
 51 their impact on the working waterfronts. The study shall be  
 52 completed no later than November 1, 2004, and a written report  
 53 on the conclusions of this study shall be submitted to the  
 54 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
 55 House of Representatives.

56       Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.