

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to funding for dredging projects; creating
 3 s. 311.115, F.S.; requiring the Florida Seaport
 4 Transportation and Economic Development Council to
 5 establish a matching funds program for certain dredging
 6 projects; requiring the adoption of rules and criteria for
 7 project evaluation; requiring approved projects to be
 8 reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs, the
 9 Department of Transportation, and the Office of Tourism,
 10 Trade, and Economic Development; providing an effective
 11 date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
 15 Section 1. Section 311.115, Florida Statutes, is created
 16 to read:

17 311.115 Dredging projects matching funds program.--

18 (1) The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic
 19 Development Council shall establish a program to fund dredging
 20 projects in counties having a population of less than 300,000
 21 according to the last official census. Funds made available
 22 under this program shall be used to fund approved projects for
 23 dredging or deepening of channels, turning basins, or harbors.
 24 Funding shall be on a 50-50 matching basis with any port
 25 authority, as defined in s. 315.02(2), that complies with the
 26 water quality provisions of s. 403.061 and the local financial
 27 management and reporting provisions of part III of chapter 218.

HB 1029

2005

28 (2) The council shall adopt rules for evaluating projects
29 submitted for funding pursuant to this section and establish
30 criteria for evaluating the economic benefit of such projects.
31 The rules shall also establish and require an administrative
32 review process similar to the process contained in s. 311.09(5)-
33 (9) for projects approved for funding pursuant to this section
34 to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs, the
35 Department of Transportation, and the Office of Tourism, Trade,
36 and Economic Development.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.