

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.

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

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 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          permitting requirements in part IV of chapter 373 and the local  
 27          financial management and reporting provisions of part III of  
 28          chapter 218.

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

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