

HB 1627

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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Water & Natural Resources Committee recommends the
2 following:

3
4 **Council/Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to the Oceans and Coastal Resources
8 Council; creating s. 380.29, F.S.; establishing the Oceans
9 and Coastal Resources Council; providing findings and
10 intent; providing for board composition, purpose, and
11 responsibilities; authorizing reimbursement for travel and
12 per diem; requiring the Department of Environmental
13 Protection to provide certain services to the council;
14 requiring the council to submit preliminary and annual
15 reports to the Governor and the Legislature; providing for
16 a pilot research project; providing an effective date.

17
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19
20 Section 1. Section 380.29, Florida Statutes, is created to
21 read:

22 380.29 Oceans and Coastal Resources Council.--

23 (1) FINDINGS; INTENT.--In spite of many years of efforts
24 to protect and conserve the resources of the state's coastal
25 zone, recent reports, including the September 2004 Final Report
26 of the United States Commission on Ocean Policy, have identified
27 troubling trends with regard to continuing degradation of the
28 state's coastal zone that will require major changes in the way
29 this area is managed.

30 (a) The Coastal Management Act was adopted in 1972 as a
31 means for complying with the federal Coastal Zone Management
32 Act. The coastal zone management plan approved by the Federal
33 Government for the state to comply with the Coastal Zone
34 Management Act is based on existing statutes and rules and is
35 coordinated through the Coastal Management Program in the
36 Department of Environmental Protection. It is now apparent that
37 the program has not been completely effective in achieving the
38 goal of protecting and conserving the resources of the state's
39 coastal zone, and new measures must be taken to achieve this
40 goal.

41 (b) The inability of the current coastal zone management
42 plan to achieve the goal of protecting and conserving the
43 resources of the state's coastal zone is due in large part to
44 inadequate information with regard to those resources and
45 inadequate management strategies to protect and conserve those
46 resources.

47 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature to create the
48 Oceans and Coastal Resources Council to assist the state in
49 determining what new management strategies should be implemented

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50 | to achieve the goal of maximizing the protection and
51 | conservation of the resources of the state's coastal zone.

52 | (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that public-
53 | private partnerships be encouraged as a means of providing
54 | necessary research and management in order to achieve the
55 | protection and conservation goals for the state's coastal zone.

56 | (2) COMPOSITION.--The Oceans and Coastal Resources Council
57 | shall be composed of 15 voting members. The Governor shall
58 | appoint four members, the President of the Senate shall appoint
59 | four members, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
60 | appoint four members, and the Board of Directors of the Florida
61 | Oceans Alliance shall appoint three members. The Governor shall
62 | appoint the chair, and the vice chair shall be elected from
63 | among the membership. Membership shall be representative of the
64 | boating and dive industries, the commercial and recreational
65 | fishing industries, the energy industry, the environmental
66 | community, the development industry, ocean research and
67 | development, ports and marine transportation, the tourism
68 | industry, the ecotourism industry with an interest in wildlife
69 | conservation, and university ocean education and shall include
70 | members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The
71 | Secretary of Environmental Protection, the Secretary of
72 | Community Affairs, the Executive Director of the Fish and
73 | Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Commissioner of
74 | Agriculture, the Commissioner of Education, and the Secretary of
75 | State or their designees shall also serve as ex officio members
76 | of the council. All appointments shall be for 4-year terms. The
77 | Governor may at any time fill a vacancy for an unexpired term.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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78 | The members of the council shall serve without compensation but
 79 | shall be paid travel and per diem as provided in s. 112.061
 80 | while in the performance of their official duties.
 81 | Administrative, personnel, and other support services necessary
 82 | for the council shall be furnished by the Department of
 83 | Environmental Protection.

84 | (3) PURPOSE.--The purpose of the council shall be to
 85 | determine those new management strategies that should be
 86 | implemented to achieve the goal of maximizing the protection and
 87 | conservation of the resources of the state's coastal zone
 88 | through the specific responsibilities listed in subsection (4).

89 | (4) RESPONSIBILITIES.--

90 | (a) The initial responsibility of the council is to review
 91 | the September 2004 Final Report of the United States Commission
 92 | on Ocean Policy and other similar reports in order to identify
 93 | those specific issues of concern that apply to the state.

94 | (b) The council shall then conduct a comprehensive
 95 | evaluation of the state's current coastal zone management plan
 96 | for the purpose of understanding how that plan is being
 97 | implemented and why it has not been effective in achieving the
 98 | goal of protecting and conserving the resources of the state's
 99 | coastal zone.

100 | (c) The council shall identify specific, quantifiable
 101 | goals that can be achieved to meet the overall goal of
 102 | protecting and conserving the resources of the state's coastal
 103 | zone.

104 | (d) The council shall create a research task force and a
 105 | management task force to assist in its work.

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106 1. The research task force shall be composed of
107 representatives from the state's marine science institutions and
108 shall be appointed by the council. The research task force shall
109 be responsible for identifying specific inadequacies in the
110 information and data that are essential to the implementation of
111 effective management strategies for achieving the identified
112 goals. The research task force shall make recommendations to the
113 council for specific research projects that can be conducted to
114 provide the needed information.

115 2. The management task force shall be composed of
116 representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection,
117 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, each of the five
118 water management districts, the South Atlantic Fisheries
119 Management Council, and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management
120 Council. The management task force shall be responsible for
121 identifying specific inadequacies in the current management of
122 the state's coastal resources. The management task force shall
123 make recommendations to the council for specific changes to the
124 current management programs that can be implemented to address
125 those management inadequacies.

126 (e) The council shall have continuing responsibilities to
127 seek funding for research and propose legislation for new
128 management strategies and realignment of current management
129 responsibilities.

130 (5) REPORTING.--The council shall submit a preliminary
131 report of its work to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
132 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1,
133 2006. In subsequent years, the council shall report annually by

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134 December 31 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
 135 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall include in
 136 such report recommendations for research needs and management
 137 strategies, recommendations for legislative appropriations, and
 138 proposed legislation needed to implement any recommended changes
 139 to management strategies.

140 Section 2. In order to protect, conserve, and restore
 141 declining recreational fisheries, stimulate economic growth, and
 142 help meet the state's seafood needs, the research task force
 143 created in s. 380.29(4)(d), Florida Statutes, shall, as a pilot
 144 project to demonstrate the feasibility of collaborative research
 145 efforts, direct research by two or more marine science research
 146 entities to evaluate the potential for inland, recirculating,
 147 and aquaculture technology to produce marine species and to
 148 implement new marine stock enhancement initiatives. This project
 149 shall be designed to expand new aquaculture and marine stock
 150 enhancement technology to include additional species and
 151 evaluate the potential to successfully enhance those marine
 152 stocks. The research task force shall present to the Oceans and
 153 Coastal Resources Council the results of this research project
 154 by March 1, 2007.

155 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.