

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Environmental Regulation Committee recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

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

16
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

21 380.29 Oceans and Coastal Resources Council.--

22 (1) FINDINGS; INTENT.--In spite of many years of efforts
23 to protect and conserve the resources of the state's coastal

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24 | zone, recent reports, including the September 2004 Final Report
25 | of the United States Commission on Ocean Policy, have identified
26 | troubling trends with regard to continuing degradation of the
27 | state's coastal zone that will require major changes in the way
28 | this area is managed.

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

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

46 | (c) It is the intent of the Legislature to create the
47 | Oceans and Coastal Resources Council to assist the state in
48 | determining what new management strategies should be implemented
49 | to achieve the goal of maximizing the protection and
50 | conservation of the resources of the state's coastal zone.

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

55 (2) COMPOSITION.--The Oceans and Coastal Resources Council
 56 shall be composed of 15 voting members. The Governor shall
 57 appoint four members, the President of the Senate shall appoint
 58 four members, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
 59 appoint four members, and the Board of Directors of the Florida
 60 Oceans Alliance shall appoint three members. The Governor shall
 61 appoint the chair, and the vice chair shall be elected from
 62 among the membership. Membership shall be representative of the
 63 boating and dive industries, the commercial and recreational
 64 fishing industries, the energy industry, the environmental
 65 community, the development industry, ocean research and
 66 development, ports and marine transportation, the tourism
 67 industry, the ecotourism industry with an interest in wildlife
 68 conservation, and university ocean education and shall include
 69 members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The
 70 Secretary of Environmental Protection, the Secretary of
 71 Community Affairs, the Executive Director of the Fish and
 72 Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Commissioner of
 73 Agriculture, the Commissioner of Education, and the Secretary of
 74 State or their designees shall also serve as ex officio members
 75 of the council. All appointments shall be for 4-year terms. The
 76 Governor may at any time fill a vacancy for an unexpired term.
 77 The members of the council shall serve without compensation but
 78 shall be paid travel and per diem as provided in s. 112.061

79 | while in the performance of their official duties.
 80 | Administrative, personnel, and other support services necessary
 81 | for the council shall be furnished by the Department of
 82 | Environmental Protection.

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

88 | (4) RESPONSIBILITIES.--

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

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

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

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

105 | 1. The research task force shall be composed of
 106 | representatives from the state's marine science institutions and

107 other organizations conducting scientific research on coastal
 108 habitat and shall be appointed by the council. The research task
 109 force shall be responsible for identifying specific inadequacies
 110 in the information and data that are essential to the
 111 implementation of effective management strategies for achieving
 112 the identified goals. The research task force shall make
 113 recommendations to the council for specific research projects
 114 that can be conducted to 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
 134 December 31 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and

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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.