

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government – The bill streamlines aspects of the development of regional impact (DRI) process, thereby reducing responsibilities for governmental and private organizations.

Safeguard individual liberty - The bill reduces government oversight of some activities presently reviewed as DRIs, and thereby increases the options of individuals regarding the conduct of their own affairs.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Section 380.06, F.S., governs the development of regional impact (DRI) program and establishes the basic process for DRI review. The DRI program is a vehicle that provides state and regional review of local land use decisions regarding large developments that, because of their character, magnitude, or location, would have a substantial effect on the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of more than one county. For those land uses that are subject to review, numerical thresholds are identified in s. 380.0651, F.S., and Chapter 28-24, F.A.C. Examples of the land uses for which guidelines are established include:

- airports; attractions and recreational facilities;
- industrial plants and industrial parks;
- office parks;
- port facilities, including marinas;
- hotel or motel development;
- retail and service development;
- recreational vehicle development;
- multi-use development;
- residential development; and
- schools.

The DRI review process involves the regional review of proposed developments meeting the defined thresholds by the regional planning councils to determine the extent to which:

- The development will have a favorable or unfavorable impact on state or regional resources or facilities;
- The development will significantly impact adjacent jurisdictions; and
- The development will favorably or adversely affect the ability of people to find adequate housing reasonably accessible to their places of employment.

Percentage thresholds, as defined in 380.06(2)(d), F.S., are applied to the guidelines and standards. These fixed thresholds provide that if a development is at or below 100% of all numerical thresholds in the guidelines, the project is not required to undergo DRI review. If a development is at or above 120% of the guidelines, it is required to undergo DRI review. A rebuttable presumption is established whereby a development at 100% of a numerical threshold, or between 100-120% of a numerical threshold, is presumed to require DRI review.

If there is a concern over whether a particular development is subject to DRI review, the developer may request a determination from the DCA. DCA or the local government with jurisdiction over the land to be used for the proposed development may require a developer to obtain a binding letter of interpretation if the development is at a presumptive threshold or up to 20 % above the established numerical threshold. Any other local government may petition DCA to require a binding letter of interpretation for a development located in an adjacent jurisdiction if the petition contains sufficient facts to find that the development as proposed constitutes a DRI.

Under s. 380.06(19), F.S., any proposed change to a previously approved DRI which creates a reasonable likelihood of additional regional impact or any type of regional impact, resulting from a change not previously reviewed by the regional planning council, constitutes a "substantial deviation" that subjects the development to further DRI review and entry of a new or amended local development order. Section 380.06(19), F.S., provides that a proposed change to a previously approved DRI which, either individually or cumulatively with other changes, exceeds specified criteria constitutes a substantial deviation and is subject to further DRI review.

The extension of the date of buildout of a development, or any phase thereof, of 5 years or more but less than 7 years is presumed not to create a substantial deviation. However, the extension of buildout by 7 or more years is presumed to create a substantial deviation and is subject to further DRI review. However, this presumption may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence at the public hearing held by the local government. When calculating whether a buildout date has been exceeded, time is tolled during the pendency of administrative or judicial proceedings relating to development permits.

Marinas

In 2002, the Legislature created an exemption for marinas from DRI review. This exempting occurs if the local government has adopted a boating facility siting plan or policy within its comprehensive plan.

The DCA, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, makes available a best practices guide to assist local governments in developing boating facility siting plans. A boating facility siting plan provides a framework for identifying locations that can accommodate boating interests while protecting manatees, seagrass beds, and other marine resources.

Multiuse Developments

Section 380.06(2)(e), F.S., increases the applicable guidelines and standards by 100 % for multiuse projects in urban central business districts and regional activity centers if the local government's comprehensive plan is in compliance with part II of ch. 163, F.S., and if one land use in the multiuse development is residential and amounts to not less than 35 % of the jurisdiction's applicable residential threshold. An urban central business district is defined as the urban core area of a municipality with a population of 25,000 or greater which is located within an urbanized area as identified in the 1990 census. Such a district must contain high intensity, high density multi-use development which includes "retail, office, cultural, recreational and entertainment facilities, hotels or motels, or other appropriate industrial activities." A regional activity center is defined as a compact, high intensity, high density multi-use area that is designated appropriate for intensive growth by the local government. It includes the same uses as an urban central business district.

Currently, the individual DRI threshold is increased by 50 % within an urban central business district or a regional activity center. However, the multiuse DRI threshold within such a district or center enjoys a 100 % increase.

Development Order (DO) Appeals

Currently there are two mechanisms by which an appeal may be sought on the grounds that a DO rendered for a DRI is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan adopted by the local government. The first is to appeal a development order under s.163.3215, F.S., within the circuit court with proper jurisdiction. The second is to appeal a development order under s. 380.06, F.S., to the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission (FLWAC).

Under existing law (s. 163.3215, F.S.), an “aggrieved or adversely affected party” may bring an appeal to challenge local government’s issuance of a development order (an order of local government granting, denying, or granting with conditions, an application for a development permit) as not being consistent with the local comprehensive plan. Appeals of this type are filed in the local circuit court. Existing law also contains another opportunity to appeal the local government’s issuance of a development order. Under another section of existing law (s. 380.07, F.S.) the owner, the developer, or the DCA may appeal a development order that relates to a DRI to the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission (FLWAC). Further, it is possible for the same development order to be challenged in both the circuit court and FLWAC. In such instances, the two challenge processes may lead to different results causing confusion for all the affected interests.

Effect of Proposed Change

HB 683 w/CS amends existing law and creates new law related to DRI. A DRI by definition is “any development which, because of its character, magnitude, or location, would have a substantial effect upon the health, safety, or welfare of citizens of more than one county.” Specifically, the bill addresses law establishing:

- A process for review of DRIs and for the issuance of a DO which details specifics regarding the scope and timing of the development and serves as the authority to commence and complete the development;
- What constitutes a “substantial deviation” of the DO which would necessitate additional review;
- Statutory exemptions that prevent DRI review;
- Statewide guidelines and standards for determining what activities require DRI review; and
- Vested rights and associated duties of the respective parties.

Details of the changes to existing law are outlined below.

Binding Letter and Development Order

The bill amends existing law to allow either a developer or the local government having jurisdiction over a DRI to ask DCA to determine whether the local government may issue permits for development subsequent to the buildout date. The determination may take the form of a formal binding letter or an informal clearance letter. Specifically, the determination is whether the DRI meets criteria newly created in s. 380.06(15)(g)3, F.S., which provides that:

- The developer has satisfied all mitigation required in the DO.
- The development is in compliance with all applicable terms and conditions of the DO, except the buildout date; and
- The amount of remaining proposed development is less than 20% of any applicable DRI threshold.

This new feature provides for limited development beyond the DRI buildout date when the existing and remaining development meets the criteria.

The bill allows a project to be considered “essentially built out” if:

- All of the infrastructure and horizontal development is complete; and
- More than 80% of the parcels have been conveyed to third-party buyers.

The bill amends the following statutory provisions relating to DOs:

- Termination date – Existing law provides that the local government’s DO specify a “termination date” before which certain land use changes would not apply to the approved DRI unless a substantial deviation occurs. The bill amends existing law to provide that the DO may not specify that date as being earlier than the “buildout date.” s. 380.06(15)(c)3., F.S.
- Notice of proposed change – Existing law provides that the DO may specify the types of changes which would require a substantial deviation determination. The bill amends existing law by extending that language to include a “notice of proposed change.” s. 380.06(15)(c)5., F.S.
- Competitive bidding or competitive negotiation – Existing law provides that a local government may require competitive bidding or competitive negotiation where construction or expansion of a public facility is conducted by a nongovernmental developer as a condition of a DO or to mitigate impacts reasonably attributable to the development. The bill amends existing law by removing that discretion and thus disallows local government from requiring competitive bidding. s. 380.06(15)(d)4., F.S.

Substantial Deviations

The bill amends existing law pertaining to the percentage and unit thresholds and provides for a presumption that the activities trigger DRI review. Existing law strictly requires DRI review when percentage and unit thresholds are met or exceeded. The amended percentage and unit thresholds follow.

- Attraction or recreational facility - The bill amends the thresholds to the greater of an increase of 10% or 330 parking spaces (from 5% or 300 spaces), or an increase to the greater of 10% or 1,100 spectators.
- Runway or terminal facility - The bill does not amend the threshold concerning a “runway or terminal facility.”
- Hospitals – The bill deletes the threshold for hospitals.
- Industrial – The bill amends the threshold to the greater of 10% or 35 acres (from 5% or 32 acres).
- Mines - The bill amends the threshold to the greater of an increase in the average annual acreage mined by 10 % or 11 acres (from 5% or 10 acres) or to the greater of an increase in the average daily water consumption by a mining operation by 10 % or 330,000 gallons (from 5% or 300,000 gallons). It is further amended to the greater of an increase of the size of the mine by 10% or 825 acres (from 5% or 750 acres).

- Office development – The bill amends the threshold to the greater of an increase in land area by 10 % (from 5%) or an increase of gross floor area by 10 % (from 5%) or 66,000 square feet (from 60,000).
- Marina development – The bill creates a threshold to the greater of 10% of wet storage or 30 watercraft slips; or to the greater of 20% of wet storage or 60 watercraft slips in an area identified by a local government in a boat facility siting plan as an appropriate site for additional marina development.
- Storage capacity for chemical or petroleum storage facilities – The bill deletes the threshold for these facilities.
- Waterport or wet storage – The bill deletes the threshold for waterport or wet storage.
- Dwelling units – The bill amends the threshold to the greater of 10% or 55 dwelling units (from 5% or 50 dwelling units).
- Workforce housing dwelling units – The bill creates a threshold to the greater of 15% or 100 units, provided that 20% of the increase in the number of dwelling units is restricted to the construction of workforce housing (affordable to a person who earns less than 120% of the area median income).
- Commercial development – The bill amends the threshold to the greater of 55,000 square feet (from 50,000 square feet) of gross floor area; or of parking spaces for customers for 330 cars (from 300 cars); or a 10% increase (from 5% increase) of either of these.
- Hotel or motel rooms – The bill amends the threshold to the greater of an increase in hotel or motel rooms by 10% or 83 rooms (from 5% or 75 units).
- Recreational vehicle park area – The bill amends the threshold to the lesser of an increase in a recreational vehicle park area by 10% (from 5%) or 110 vehicle spaces.
- Approved multiuse DRI – The bill amends the threshold to 110% of the sum of the increases of each land use as a percentage of the applicable substantial deviation criteria.

The bill amends existing law in the following ways relating to presumptions concerning substantial deviations:

- Presumption of a substantial deviation – A presumption of substantial deviation is created by an extension of the buildout date of more than 7 years (from 7 or more years).
- Presumption of no substantial deviation – A presumption of no substantial deviation is created by an extension of the buildout date of more than 5 years (from 5 or more years), but less than 7 years.
- No substantial deviation - An extension of the buildout date of 5 years or less (from less than 5 years) is not a substantial deviation.

The bill establishes that the following changes do not constitute substantial deviations:

- Protected lands -

- The bill provides that changes that modify boundaries due to science-based refinement of such areas by survey, habitat evaluation, other recognized assessment methodology, or an environmental assessment.
- The bill provides that this only applies to areas previously set aside for preservation or special protection of endangered or threatened plants or animals designated as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern and their habitat, primary dunes, or archaeological and historical sites designated as significant by the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State.

The bill amends existing law to provide for notice prior to implementation of the types of non substantial deviation changes addressed above. The specific requirements are as follows:

- Notice - The developer must give 45 days notice to DCA, the regional planning agency, and the local government.
- Objections - If any of these entities object within the provided period, the change shall require the developer to submit a “notice of proposed change” which shall be “presumed not to be a substantial deviation.”
- Circuit Court Filing – A memorandum of the notice must be filed with the clerk of the circuit court along with a legal description of the affected DRI.
- Subsequent Changes - If a subsequent change requiring a substantial deviation determination is made to the DRI, then modifications to the DRI made in all prior notices must be reflected as amendments to the DO.

The bill amends existing law as it pertains to proposed changes that require further DRI review as follows:

- Scope of mitigation – The bill amends existing law to limit the scope of mitigation required as a result of a proposed change to a DO. The amended language limits such new mitigation to the individual and cumulative impacts caused only by the proposed change.
- Continuance of development – The bill amends existing law by providing that development within the DRI may continue during the DRI review in those portions of the development which are not “directly” affected by the proposed change.

Statutory Exemptions

The bill amends current DRI exemptions providing that if a use is exempt from review as a DRI under the following circumstances or any other paragraphs under this subsection, but is a part of a larger project that is subject to review as a DRI, the impact of the exempt use must be included in the review of the larger project.

- Hospitals – The bill removes the 100 bed capacity limitation; thus providing that all hospitals are exempt.
- Steam or solar electrical generating facility - The bill removes the exception of a steam or solar electrical generating facility of less than 50 megawatts in capacity attached to a DRI from the exemption for proposed electrical transmission lines or electrical power plants.
- Adjacent jurisdictions – The bill amends existing law which allows a DRI exemption for certain proposed development within an urban service area. The amendment changes one of the criteria for the exemption that requires a binding agreement with adjacent jurisdictions and the

Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding impacts on state and regional transportation facilities. The amendment changes the requirement so that the binding agreement must be entered into with jurisdictions “that would be impacted” and DOT.

The bill creates five new exemptions to existing law as follows:

- Self storage warehousing – The bill provides an exemption for any self-storage warehousing that does not allow retail or other services.
- Nursing home or assisted living facility – The bill provides an exemption for any proposed nursing home or assisted living facility.
- Airport master plan – The bill provides an exemption for any development identified in an airport master plan and adopted into the comprehensive plan.
- Campus master plan – The bill provides an exemption for any development identified in a campus master plan and adopted pursuant to s. 1013.30, F.S. (related to campus master plans and campus DOs).
- Specific area plan – The bill provides an exemption for any development in a specific area plan which is prepared pursuant to s. 163.3245, F.S. (related to optional sector plans) and adopted into the comprehensive plan.

Additional new language provides that if a use is exempt from DRI review but is part of a larger project that is subject to DRI review, then the exempt use must be included in review of the larger project.

Partial Exemptions

The bill creates new law limiting the requirement that two exemptions only will apply if the local government has entered into a binding agreement with DOT and jurisdictions “that would be impacted.”

- Urban service boundaries (USB) – The bill provides that if the binding agreement is not entered into within 12 months after establishment of the USB, then DRI review shall address transportation impact only.
- Urban infill and redevelopment area – The bill provides that if the binding agreement is not entered into within 12 months after the designation of the area or July 1, 2007, whichever occurs later, then DRI review shall address transportation impacts only.
- Notification to DCA - The bill provides that notification must be submitted by the local government to DCA stating that the local government either does not wish, or has not been able, to enter into a binding agreement within the 12 month period, after which, the DRI within the USB or urban infill and redevelopment area must address transportation impacts only.

Statewide Guidelines and Standards

The bill amends existing law addressing how certain statewide guidelines and standards are applied to determine whether a development must undergo DRI review.

- Port facilities – The bill adds “marina” to “port facilities” as a development to be required to undergo DRI review and provides criteria requiring DRI review rather than excepting certain activities as provided in existing law. Deletes all dry storage as a use requiring DRI review.
- Wet Storage – The criteria requiring DRI review are provided as follows:

- Wet storage or mooring of more than 150 watercraft used for sport, pleasure, or commercial fishing. Under existing law, wet storage or mooring must be used “exclusively” for wet storage or mooring.
- Wet storage or mooring of more than 150 watercraft on or adjacent to an inland freshwater lake (except Lake Okeechobee or any lake that has been designated as an Outstanding Florida Water).
- Workforce housing – The bill creates an increased threshold (increased by 20%) for residential development and the residential component for multiuse development when the developer demonstrates that at least 15 % of the residential dwelling units will be dedicated to housing that is affordable to a person who earns less than 120% of the area median income, i.e., workforce housing.

The bill creates an incentive allowing a doubling of numeric thresholds for proposed marina developers who enter into a binding agreement to set aside at least 15% of wet storage or moorings for public use or rental.

The bill excludes subthreshold exceptions from applying to marina facilities located within or which serve physical development located within a coastal barrier resource unit on an unbridged barrier island.

Additionally, the bill increases the exemption threshold for certain projects for which no environmental resource permit or sovereign submerged land lease is required. The threshold is increased to 75 slips or storage spaces or a combination of the two. Existing law contains a 10 slip or storage space or combination threshold.

Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission (FLWAC)

The bill amends existing law related to challenges of a DO based on consistency to provide the following:

- Consistency challenges – The bill allows the appeal of a DO to FLWAC by DCA to include consistency with the local comprehensive plan. If a challenge to the DO relating to the DRI has been filed under s. 163.3215, F.S., and notice is served on DCA, then the DCA must intervene in that pending proceeding and raise its consistency issues within 30 days after service. Further, DCA must dismiss the consistency issues from its DO appeal to the FLWAC. The filing of the petition stays the effectiveness of the DO until after completion of the appeal process.

Vested Rights and Duties

The bill amends existing law related to the vested rights of DRIs. The amendment makes changes as follows:

- The bill provides that vested rights are not abridged or modified by a change in the DRI guidelines and standards.
- The bill revises the procedures affecting a DRI which is no longer required to undergo DRI review because of a change in the guidelines or standards, or because of a reduction that lowers the development below the thresholds.
- The bill provides that the local government having jurisdiction shall rescind the DO upon a showing by the developer or the landowner that all required mitigation related to the amount that existed on the date of rescission has been completed.

- The bill provides that unless the developer follows this procedure, the DRI continues to be governed by, and may be completed in reliance upon, the DO.
- The bill provides that if an application for development approval, or a notification of proposed change, is pending on the effective date of a change to the guidelines and standards, then the development may elect to continue the DRI review which is governed by the vested rights provision.

Recreational and Commercial Working Waterfronts

The bill amends existing law relating to the legislative findings and the definition of “recreational and commercial working waterfront” in the following ways:

- Legislative findings – The bill amends the findings as follows:
 - The bill expands the statement of important state interest to include “other recreation access” to the state’s navigable waters.
 - The bill adds tourism, with a \$57 billion annual economic impact, as a vital industry to be protected.
 - The bill adds a statement that by expanding the importance of water access beyond recreational users to include “tourist.”
 - The bill adds “public lodging establishments” to those water-dependent support facilities as important state interests to be maintained.
- Definition of “recreational and commercial working waterfront” – The bill adds “water-dependent recreational activities including public lodging establishments as defined in chapter 509” to the definition.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends ss. 380.06(2)(d), (7)(b), (15), (19), and (24), F.S., relating to developments of regional impact (DRI).

Section 2: Amends s. 380.0651, F.S., relating to statewide guidelines and standards for determining what development activities must undergo DRI review.

Section 3: Creates s. 380.07, F.S., relating to the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission.

Section 4: Amends s. 380.115, F.S., relating to vested rights and duties of DRI projects as it relates to the provisions of this bill taking effect.

Section 5: Amends s. 163.3180, F.S., relating to recreational and commercial working waterfronts; legislative findings; and definitions.

Section 6: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The development community would benefit from increased thresholds and expanded exemptions from the DRI review process.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

No additional fiscal comments.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

There do not appear to be other constitutional issues with the bill.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not include any rulemaking authority.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

There do not appear to be any drafting issues.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On March 8, 2006, the Local Government Council adopted a strike-all amendment. The strike-all amendment made changes to the original filed bill as outlined below.

- Biennial Reports:
 - Removes the requirement to submit biennial rather than annual reports.
 - Removes the penalty for failure to submit a biennial report.
- Rulemaking: Removes the requirement for DCA to initiate rulemaking by August 1, 2006 to revise the DRI review process.
- Substantial Deviations:
 - Thresholds: Lowers, across the board, the substantial deviation thresholds (which are still slightly higher than those in existing law).
 - Doubles the threshold for marinas under certain circumstances
 - Triggering Time Periods: Changes the time periods relative to triggering a substantial deviation:
 - More than 7 years creates a presumption of a substantial deviation.

- More than 5 years, but less than 7 years, creates a presumption of no substantial deviation.
 - Five years or less does not constitute a substantial deviation.
- Activities That Do No Trigger: Removes “internal utility locations” and “internal location of public facilities” as activities that expressly do not constitute substantial deviations.
- Workforce Housing: Creates a substantial deviation threshold bonus for the provision of workforce housing.
- DRI Exemptions:
 - Restores the term “waterport” in conjunction with marinas as relates to certain exemptions.
 - Removes exceptions from transportation concurrency as a new exemption to DRI review.
- Urban Service Area Binding Agreement:
 - Substitutes language describing what constitutes a statutory exemption; replacing the phrase “jurisdictions that would be impacted” for the phrase “contiguous jurisdiction.”
 - Establishes that if local government fails to enter into a binding agreement within 12 months, then the DRI review is limited to transportation issues only. Further, local government must report to DCA such failure to enter a binding agreement.
- Statewide Guidelines and Standards for Determining Whether a Particular Activity Undergoes DRI Review:
 - Restores to existing statutory language the guidelines and standards related to: airports; attractions & recreation facilities; schools; and aggregation.
 - Restores “port facility” in conjunction with marinas related to statewide guidelines and standards.
 - Reestablishes existing law related to spaceport launch facilities and concurrency.
 - Workforce Housing: Creates a bonus against the applicable guidelines for the provision of workforce housing.
- Consistency Challenges: Further revises procedures for consistency challenges to FLWAC.
- Binding Letter:
 - Authorizes local governments in addition to the developer to request a binding letter.
 - Expands DCA’s authority to issue a clearance letter to determine whether the amount of development that remains to be built will constitute “essentially built- out.”
- Working Waterfront: Adds tourism and its economic impact to the legislative findings; and adds “public lodging establishments” and “recreational activities”; to existing law relating to working waterfronts.