By Senator Mayfield

17-00912-17 20171036

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to permits for mangrove alteration and trimming; amending s. 403.9328, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to issue permits for mangrove alteration and trimming to the owner of certain residential property; providing conditions for issuance of such permits; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 403.9328, Florida Statutes, to read:

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403.9328 Alteration and trimming of mangroves; permit requirement.—

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(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the department may issue a permit for mangrove alteration or trimming to the owner of a residential property of 5 acres or less if:

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(a) The mangroves to be altered or trimmed were originally planted voluntarily by the owner;

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(b) The alteration or trimming does not reduce the mangrove coverage by more than 70 percent along the shoreline; and

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(c) The owner demonstrates that new mangrove habitats are being created along the shoreline.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.