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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to the Florida Endangered and  
 Threatened Species Act; amending s. 379.2291, F.S.;  
 revising legislative intent; revising definitions;  
 directing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
 Commission to protect certain declassified species;  
 prohibiting the commission from considering certain  
 costs when designating a species as endangered or  
 threatened; amending s. 581.185, F.S.; revising  
 criteria for placement of species on the Regulated  
 Plant Index by the Department of Agriculture and  
 Consumer Services; directing the department, in  
 consultation with the Endangered Plant Advisory  
 Council, to protect certain declassified species;  
 prohibiting the department from considering certain  
 costs when designating a species as endangered or  
 threatened; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section  
 379.2291, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

379.2291 Endangered and Threatened Species Act.—

(2) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—The Legislature recognizes that  
 the State of Florida harbors a wide diversity of fish and

26 | wildlife and that it is the policy of this state to conserve and  
27 | wisely manage these resources, with particular attention to  
28 | those species designated ~~defined~~ by the Fish and Wildlife  
29 | Conservation Commission, the Department of Environmental  
30 | Protection, or the United States Department of Interior, or  
31 | successor agencies, as being endangered or threatened. As  
32 | Florida has more endangered and threatened species than any  
33 | other continental state, it is the intent of the Legislature to  
34 | provide for research and management to conserve and protect  
35 | these species as a natural resource.

36 | (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

37 | (a) "Fish and wildlife" means any member of the animal  
38 | kingdom, including, but not limited to, any mammal, fish, bird,  
39 | amphibian, reptile, mollusk, crustacean, arthropod, or other  
40 | invertebrate.

41 | (b) "Endangered species" means any species of fish and  
42 | wildlife naturally occurring in Florida, whose prospects of  
43 | survival are in jeopardy due to modification or loss of habitat;  
44 | overuse ~~overutilization~~ for commercial, sporting, scientific, or  
45 | educational purposes; disease; predation; inadequacy of  
46 | regulatory mechanisms; or other natural or manmade factors  
47 | affecting its continued existence, including climate change.

48 | (c) "Threatened species" means any species of fish and  
49 | wildlife naturally occurring in Florida which may not be in  
50 | immediate danger of extinction, but which exists in such small

51 | populations as to become endangered if it is subjected to  
 52 | increased stress as a result of further modification of its  
 53 | environment, including climate change.

54 | (4) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

55 | (a) The commission shall be responsible for research and  
 56 | management of freshwater and upland species and for research and  
 57 | management of marine species.

58 | (b) Recognizing that citizen awareness is a key element in  
 59 | the success of this plan, the commission and the Department of  
 60 | Education are encouraged to work together to develop a public  
 61 | education program with emphasis on, but not limited to, both  
 62 | public and private schools.

63 | (c) The commission, in consultation with the Department of  
 64 | Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Economic  
 65 | Opportunity, or the Department of Transportation, may establish  
 66 | reduced speed zones along roads, streets, and highways to  
 67 | protect endangered and threatened species ~~or threatened~~ species.

68 | (d) Notwithstanding declassification under the federal  
 69 | Endangered Species Act of 1973, the commission shall continue to  
 70 | protect species that meet the definition of endangered or  
 71 | threatened under subsection (3), as determined by the  
 72 | commission.

73 | (e) The commission may not consider the economic cost of  
 74 | protecting a species as a factor in designating the species as  
 75 | endangered or threatened.

76 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 581.185, Florida  
 77 Statutes, is amended to read:

78 581.185 Preservation of native flora of Florida.—

79 (5) REVIEW.—

80 (a) Beginning in 1984, and every 4 years thereafter, the  
 81 department and the Endangered Plant Advisory Council shall  
 82 conduct a comprehensive review of this section and of the  
 83 Regulated Plant Index, as provided in rules of the department,  
 84 ~~shall be made by the department and the Endangered Plant~~  
 85 ~~Advisory Council at 4-year intervals.~~

86 (b) The department shall consider any species of plant  
 87 that should be placed on the Regulated Plant Index which is in  
 88 danger of disappearing from its native habitat within the  
 89 foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of  
 90 the range of the species because of:

91 1. Present or threatened destruction, modification, or  
 92 curtailment of the range of the species.

93 2. Overuse ~~Overutilization~~ of the species for commercial,  
 94 scientific, or educational purposes.

95 3. Disease or predation.

96 4. Any other natural or manmade factor affecting the  
 97 continued existence of the species, including climate change.

98 (c) In carrying out reviews and arriving at  
 99 recommendations under paragraphs (a) and (b), the department and  
 100 the advisory council shall use the best scientific and

101 commercial data available and shall consult with interested  
102 persons and organizations.

103 (d) Notwithstanding declassification under the federal  
104 Endangered Species Act of 1973, the department shall continue to  
105 protect species that meet the definition of endangered or  
106 threatened under subsection (2), as determined by the department  
107 in consultation with the advisory council.

108 (e) The department may not consider the economic cost of  
109 protecting a species as a factor in designating the species as  
110 endangered or threatened.

111 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.