

By Senator Diaz

36-01825-20

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Land Subsidence  
3           Research Initiative; creating s. 380.29, F.S.;  
4           providing legislative intent; establishing the Florida  
5           Land Subsidence Research Initiative as a partnership  
6           between the Department of Environmental Protection and  
7           Florida International University; providing the goal  
8           of the initiative; directing the department to  
9           contract with, and allocate certain funds to, Florida  
10          International University to implement the initiative;  
11          requiring Florida International University to  
12          collaborate with other state universities, develop  
13          data collection and reporting specifications, and  
14          submit reports to the Governor and Legislature by  
15          specified dates; providing report requirements;  
16          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 Florida Land Subsidence Research Initiative.—

23           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish an  
24           independent and coordinated effort among state universities to  
25           determine the rate of land subsidence in the state by measuring  
26           changes in land elevation.

27           (2) (a) The Florida Land Subsidence Research Initiative is  
28           established as a partnership between the Department of  
29           Environmental Protection and Florida International University.

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30 The goal of the initiative is to collect and analyze data using  
31 geodetic techniques, including global positioning system and  
32 other satellite approaches, to understand natural hazards, such  
33 as land subsidence and sinkholes, and their effects on sea-level  
34 rise.

35 (b) To implement the initiative, the department shall  
36 contract with Florida International University, which shall  
37 collaborate with Florida State University, the University of  
38 Florida, the University of North Florida, and the University of  
39 South Florida.

40 (c) Funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature for  
41 the initiative shall be allocated by the department to Florida  
42 International University to achieve the goals of the initiative.  
43 Florida International University shall use a portion of the  
44 funds to facilitate additional engagement with other state  
45 universities to assist in implementing the initiative statewide.

46 (3) Florida International University shall develop  
47 specifications for the collection and reporting of data for the  
48 initiative that all participating state universities must use.

49 (4) (a) Beginning July 1, 2022, Florida International  
50 University shall submit a biennial report to the Governor, the  
51 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
52 Representatives. The report must provide an update on the  
53 progress of the research and include a summary and analysis of  
54 the data collected by each state university.

55 (b) By July 1, 2030, Florida International University, in  
56 coordination with contributing state universities pursuant to  
57 subsection (2), shall submit a final report to the Governor, the  
58 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of

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59 Representatives. The final report must include the following:

60 1. The assessment methodologies for data collection used by  
61 each university.

62 2. A summary of the data collected by each university.

63 3. An analysis, using all relevant data, of the trends in  
64 land subsidence in the state.

65 4. An estimation of current and future sea level risks,  
66 including land subsidence and other natural hazards, such as  
67 coastal flooding and sinkholes.

68 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.