

By the Committee on Community Affairs; and Senator Diaz

578-02852-22

20221338c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to floating solar facilities; creating  
3           s. 163.32051, F.S.; providing legislative findings  
4           regarding floating solar facilities; defining the term  
5           "floating solar facility"; providing that a floating  
6           solar facility must be a permitted use in appropriate  
7           land use categories in each local government's  
8           comprehensive plan; requiring each local government to  
9           amend its development regulations to promote the  
10          expanded use of floating solar facilities; authorizing  
11          counties and municipalities to specify certain buffer  
12          and landscaping requirements for floating solar  
13          facilities; providing exceptions to the construction  
14          of floating solar facilities; requiring the Office of  
15          Energy within the Department of Agriculture and  
16          Consumer Services to submit specified recommendations  
17          to the Legislature to provide a regulatory framework  
18          relating to floating solar facilities; providing an  
19          effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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23           Section 1. Section 163.32051, Florida Statutes, is created  
24 to read:

25           163.32051 Floating solar facilities.—

26           (1) (a) The Legislature finds that floating solar  
27 facilities, also known as "floatovoltaics," can be effective  
28 tools in harnessing energy on manmade bodies of water.

29           (b) The Legislature finds that siting floating solar

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30 facilities on wastewater treatment ponds, abandoned limerock  
31 mine areas, and other water storage reservoirs is a beneficial  
32 use of those areas for many reasons, which include that the  
33 water has a cooling effect on the solar panels which can boost  
34 power production and that the panels help decrease the amount of  
35 water lost to evaporation and the formation of harmful algal  
36 blooms.

37 (c) Therefore, the Legislature finds that the siting of  
38 floating solar facilities should be encouraged by local  
39 governments as appropriate uses of water and land areas.

40 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "floating solar  
41 facility" means a solar facility as defined in s. 163.3205(2)  
42 which is located on a wastewater treatment pond, abandoned  
43 limerock mine area, or other manmade water storage reservoir.

44 (3) A floating solar facility shall be a permitted use in  
45 the appropriate land use categories in each local government's  
46 comprehensive plan, and each local government must amend its  
47 land development regulations to promote the expanded use of  
48 floating solar facilities.

49 (4) A county or municipality may adopt an ordinance  
50 specifying buffer and landscaping requirements for floating  
51 solar facilities. The requirements may not exceed the  
52 requirements for similar uses involving the construction of  
53 other solar facilities that are permitted uses in agricultural  
54 land use categories and zoning districts.

55 (5) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (4), a floating  
56 solar facility may not be constructed in an Everglades  
57 Agricultural Area reservoir project if the local governments  
58 involved with the project determine that the floating solar

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59 facility will have a negative impact on that project.

60 (6) The Office of Energy within the Department of  
61 Agriculture and Consumer Services shall develop and submit  
62 recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 2022, to  
63 provide a regulatory framework for private and public sector  
64 entities that implement floating solar facilities.

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.