HB 1411

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"; requiring a floating solar
6	facility to be a permitted use in certain land use
7	categories; requiring local governments to promote
8	expanded uses of floating solar facilities by taking
9	specified actions; authorizing a county to specify
10	buffer and landscaping requirements; providing
11	exceptions to the construction of floating solar
12	facilities; requiring the Office of Energy within the
13	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to
14	submit specified recommendations to the Legislature
15	regarding floating solar facilities for certain
16	entities; providing an effective date.
17	
18	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
19	
20	Section 1. Section 163.32051, Florida Statutes, is created
21	to read:
22	163.32051 Floating solar facilities
23	(1)(a) The Legislature finds that floating solar
24	facilities, also known as "floatavoltaics," can be effective
25	tools in harnessing energy in manmade bodies of water.
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26	(b) The Legislature finds that siting floating solar
27	facilities on wastewater treatment ponds, abandoned limerock
28	mine areas, and other water storage reservoirs are beneficial
29	uses of those areas for many reasons, including the fact that
30	the water has a cooling effect on the solar panels which can
31	boost power production and the panels help decrease the amount
32	of water lost to evaporation and the formation of harmful algal
33	blooms.
34	(c) Therefore, the Legislature finds that the siting of
35	floating solar facilities should be encouraged by local
36	governments as appropriate uses of water and land areas.
37	(2) For purposes of this section, the term "floating solar
38	facility" means a solar facility as defined in s. 163.3205(2)
39	which is located on wastewater treatment ponds, abandoned
40	limerock mine areas, or other manmade water storage reservoirs.
41	(3) A floating solar facility shall be a permitted use in
42	the appropriate land use categories in each local government
43	comprehensive plan and each local government must amend its land
44	development regulations to promote the expanded use of floating
45	solar facilities.
46	(4) A county may adopt an ordinance specifying buffer and
47	landscaping requirements for floating solar facilities. The
48	requirements may not exceed the requirements for similar uses
49	involving the construction of other solar facilities that are
50	permitted uses in agricultural land use categories and zoning
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51 districts. 52 (5) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (4), a floating 53 solar facility may not be constructed in the Lake Belt Area or an Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project if the local 54 55 governments involved with the area or project determine that the 56 floating solar facility will have a negative impact on that area 57 or project. 58 (6) The Office of Energy within the Department of 59 Agriculture and Consumer Services shall develop and submit 60 recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 2022, to provide a regulatory framework to private and public sector 61 62 entities that implement floating solar facilities. Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022. 63

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