

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
54 an Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project if the local
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
61 provide a regulatory framework to private and public sector
62 entities that implement floating solar facilities.

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