

By Senator Rodriguez

39-00398-22

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to seagrass mitigation banks; amending
3 s. 253.03, F.S.; authorizing the Board of Trustees of
4 the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to establish
5 seagrass mitigation banks under certain conditions;
6 providing construction; providing an effective date.
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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Subsection (17) is added to section 253.03,
11 Florida Statutes, to read:

12 253.03 Board of trustees to administer state lands; lands
13 enumerated.—

14 (17) The board of trustees may establish seagrass
15 mitigation banks under s. 373.4136 to ensure the preservation
16 and regeneration of seagrass, as defined in s. 253.04(3)(a), and
17 to offset the unavoidable impacts of projects when seagrass
18 mitigation banks meet the public interest criteria under this
19 chapter and chapter 258. This subsection does not prohibit
20 mitigation for impacts to seagrass or other habitats on
21 sovereignty or nonsovereignty submerged lands, upon approval of
22 the board of trustees.

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