

By Senator Rodriguez

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to deepwater port dredging; amending
3 s. 403.816, F.S.; directing the Department of
4 Environmental Protection to require a specified
5 analysis as a condition of permits issued for
6 maintenance dredging of deepwater ports; providing
7 requirements for conducting the analysis; requiring a
8 local government to provide notice of its intent to
9 conduct such analysis to certain local governments;
10 providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Present subsection (3) of section 403.816,
15 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (4), and a new
16 subsection (3) is added to that section to read:

17 403.816 Permits for maintenance dredging of deepwater ports
18 and beach restoration projects.—

19 (3) As a condition of a permit issued for maintenance
20 dredging of deepwater ports pursuant to this section, the
21 department shall require a habitat equivalency analysis to
22 determine the adverse impacts of the dredging activity on the
23 natural habitat. The analysis must be conducted by an
24 independent contractor selected by the local government in a
25 manner prescribed by the department. The independent contractor
26 for the analysis may not be associated with any project of the
27 contractor performing the dredging activity for the local
28 government. The local government shall provide written notice of
29 its intent to conduct a habitat equivalency analysis to adjacent

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30 local governments that may be impacted by the dredging activity.

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.