

By Senator Brodeur

10-01879A-23

20231230__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to fill material for reclamation
3 activities; amending s. 253.03, F.S.; requiring the
4 Department of Environmental Protection to approve
5 reclamation and restoration activities on sovereignty
6 submerged lands involving specified fill material;
7 providing an effective date.

8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
11 Section 1. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (10) of
12 section 253.03, Florida Statutes, to read:

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

15 (10) The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement
16 Trust Fund and the state through any of its agencies are hereby
17 prohibited from levying any charge, by whatever name known, or
18 attaching any lien, on any and all materials dredged from state
19 sovereignty tidal lands or submerged bottom lands or on the
20 lands constituting the spoil areas on which such dredged
21 materials are placed, except as otherwise provided for in this
22 subsection, when such materials are dredged by or on behalf of
23 the United States or the local sponsors of active federal
24 navigation projects in the pursuance of the improvement,
25 construction, maintenance, and operation of such projects or by
26 a public body authorized to operate a public port facility (all
27 such parties referred to herein shall hereafter be called
28 “public body”) in pursuance of the improvement, construction,
29 maintenance, and operation of such facility, including any

10-01879A-23

20231230__

30 public transfer and terminal facilities, which actions are
31 hereby declared to be for a public purpose. The term "local
32 sponsor" means the local agency designated pursuant to an act of
33 Congress to assume a portion of the navigation project costs and
34 duties. Active federal navigation projects are those
35 congressionally approved projects which are being performed by
36 the United States Army Corps of Engineers or maintained by the
37 local sponsors.

38 (f) The Department of Environmental Protection shall
39 approve reclamation or restoration activities on sovereignty
40 submerged lands involving the deposit of fill material below the
41 ordinary high-water line or mean high-water line if the fill
42 material is not actual sediment. The reclamation or restoration
43 activities may use innovative technologies for fill material,
44 which may include bonded molecules, such as alum- or lanthanum-
45 based technologies.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.