



- 26 | 3. The Division of Workforce Services.
- 27 | 4. The Division of Finance and Administration.
- 28 | 5. The Division of Information Technology.
- 29 | 6. The Office of the Secretary.
- 30 | 7. The Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency,
- 31 | which shall:

32 | a. Oversee the department's critical objectives as  
 33 | determined by the secretary and make sure that the department's  
 34 | key objectives are clearly communicated to the public.

35 | b. Organize department resources, expertise, data, and  
 36 | research to focus on and solve the complex economic challenges  
 37 | facing the state.

38 | c. Provide leadership for the department's priority issues  
 39 | that require integration of policy, management, and critical  
 40 | objectives from multiple programs and organizations internal and  
 41 | external to the department; and organize and manage external  
 42 | communication on such priority issues.

43 | d. Promote and facilitate key department initiatives to  
 44 | address priority economic issues and explore data and identify  
 45 | opportunities for innovative approaches to address such economic  
 46 | issues.

47 | e. Promote strategic planning for the department.

48 | 8. The Office of the Blue Economy.

49 | Section 2. Section 288.93, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 50 | read:

51           288.93 Office of the Blue Economy.-  
 52           (1) For purposes of this section, the term "blue economy"  
 53 means the economic uses of ocean and coastal resources with a  
 54 focus on sustainable practices that benefit the long-term  
 55 outlook of relevant industry sectors and the competitive  
 56 positioning of the state in a global economy, including, but not  
 57 limited to, maritime industries such as shipyards, marinas,  
 58 marine terminals, piers, fishing, aquaculture, seafood  
 59 processing, commercial diving, and marine transportation;  
 60 floating and amphibious housing; tourism; and outdoor  
 61 recreational activities, including, but not limited to, boating,  
 62 and industry sectors dependent on such activities.  
 63           (2) The Office of the Blue Economy shall:  
 64           (a) Support the state's economy by connecting the state's  
 65 ocean and coastal resources to economic development strategies  
 66 that enhance or contribute to the blue economy with a focus on  
 67 research and development, technological innovation, emerging  
 68 industries, strategic business recruitment, public and private  
 69 funding opportunities, and workforce training and education.  
 70           (b) Survey state universities and Florida College System  
 71 institutions on the development of academic research relating to  
 72 the blue economy across all disciplines. The office shall  
 73 encourage collaboration between state universities and Florida  
 74 College System institutions with overlapping areas of academic  
 75 research. The office shall publish on the department's website

76 information on such collaboration and the current research  
77 inventory.

78 (c) Collaborate with relevant industries to identify  
79 economic challenges that may be solved through innovation in the  
80 blue economy by commercializing or otherwise providing public  
81 access to academic research and resources.

82 (d) Develop and facilitate a pipeline of academic  
83 research, commercialization, accelerator programs, and startup  
84 funding.

85 (e) Publish on the department's website reports on the  
86 number, growth, and average wages of jobs included in the blue  
87 economy. Such reports shall identify and address any relevant  
88 labor shortages projected by the Labor Market Estimating  
89 Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(7).

90 (f) Educate other state and local entities on the  
91 interests of the blue economy and how such entities may  
92 positively address environmental issues while simultaneously  
93 considering the economic impact of their policies.

94 (g) Communicate the state's role as an integral component  
95 of the blue economy by promoting the state on national and  
96 international platforms and other appropriate forums as the  
97 premier destination for convening on pertinent subject matters.

98 (3) The department may adopt rules to administer this  
99 section.

100 Section 3. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (1) of

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101 section 403.928, Florida Statutes, to read:

102 403.928 Assessment of water resources and conservation  
103 lands.—The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall  
104 conduct an annual assessment of Florida's water resources and  
105 conservation lands.

106 (1) WATER RESOURCES.—The assessment must include all of  
107 the following:

108 (f) Biennially, beginning on January 1, 2024, the  
109 evaluation of the state's blue economy required under s.  
110 403.9303.

111 Section 4. Section 403.9303, Florida Statutes, is created  
112 to read:

113 403.9303 Blue economy evaluation.—

114 (1) Beginning January 1, 2024, the Office of Economic and  
115 Demographic Research shall conduct a biennial evaluation of the  
116 state's blue economy for inclusion in its annual assessment  
117 conducted pursuant to s. 403.928.

118 (2) The evaluation must include the following:

119 (a) The historical and current contributions to the  
120 state's economy from maritime industries, including, but not  
121 limited to:

122 1. Shipyards, marinas, marine terminals, piers, fishing,  
123 aquaculture, seafood processing, commercial diving, and marine  
124 transportation.

125 2. Floating and amphibious housing.

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126       3. Tourism.

127       4. Outdoor recreational activities, including, but not  
128 limited to, boating, and industry sectors dependent on such  
129 activities.

130       (b) Appropriate economic comparisons to other states to  
131 identify comparative advantages and disadvantages.

132       (c) The identification and discussion of any growing,  
133 emerging, or new industries that fit within the blue economy  
134 structure.

135       (d) Beginning January 1, 2026, an analysis of the  
136 contributions of the blue economy to the state, including, but  
137 not limited to, the economic benefits, as defined in s.  
138 288.005(1), of the efforts undertaken by the Office of the Blue  
139 Economy pursuant to s. 288.93.

140       Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.