

ENROLLED

HB 641

2023 Legislature

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 2 An act relating to the restoration of Osborne Reef;
 3 providing legislative findings and intent; requiring
 4 the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a
 5 status report on the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire
 6 removal project to the Legislature by a specified
 7 date; requiring the department to develop a
 8 restoration plan for the reef by a specified date;
 9 providing requirements for the restoration plan;
 10 requiring the department to submit a report to the
 11 Legislature upon completion of the plan; providing
 12 requirements for the report; providing an effective
 13 date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Osborne Reef; restoration plan.—
 18 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—
 19 (a) The Legislature finds that:
 20 1. More than 1 million tires were deposited in the ocean
 21 off the coast of Broward County during the 1970s to create an
 22 artificial reef habitat by providing structures to which coral
 23 could attach and attract additional marine life; however, many
 24 of the tires have corroded, broken loose, and dislodged along
 25 the coastline, damaging the existing fragile coral reef system

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26 and prompting the Legislature to appropriate millions of dollars
 27 to retrieve the tires.

28 2. Coral reefs are an important part of this state's
 29 coastal ecosystem, creating habitats that provide shelter, food,
 30 and breeding grounds for plants and animals.

31 (b) The Legislature intends to restore Osborne Reef to
 32 being capable of creating a habitat for plants and animals, and
 33 to dedicate resources toward restoring the artificial reef and
 34 the nearby natural coral reef systems once the cleanup of the
 35 site has been completed.

36 (2) STATUS REPORT.—By December 1, 2023, the Department of
 37 Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the President
 38 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on
 39 the status of the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project.
 40 At a minimum, the report must include a description of the
 41 condition of the remaining Osborne Reef structure, any
 42 restoration efforts undertaken to restore the reef structure,
 43 the number of tires retrieved since the project began and the
 44 number of tires that still need to be retrieved, and an
 45 estimated timeline for the completion of the cleanup and tire
 46 removal project.

47 (3) RESTORATION PLAN.—

48 (a) By July 1, 2024, the Department of Environmental
 49 Protection shall develop a comprehensive coral reef restoration
 50 plan for Osborne Reef to be commenced, subject to appropriation

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51 by the Legislature, upon the completion of the cleanup and tire
52 removal project. At a minimum, the restoration plan must include
53 a preliminary plan for the restoration of the existing reef, the
54 restoration of any nearby natural reefs that were destroyed by
55 the tire installation, the shifting of resources from tire
56 retrieval to reef restoration, and coordination with other coral
57 reef restoration projects and resources.

58 (b) Upon completion of the plan, the department shall
59 provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
60 of the House of Representatives. The report must include an
61 update on the status of the restoration plan and any
62 recommendations for statutory changes necessary to achieve the
63 identified restoration goals.

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