

By Senator Polsky

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to saltwater intrusion vulnerability
3 assessments; amending s. 380.093, F.S.; authorizing
4 the Department of Environmental Protection to provide
5 grants to coastal counties for saltwater intrusion
6 vulnerability assessments; specifying the purpose of
7 and requirements for the assessments; requiring the
8 department to update the comprehensive statewide flood
9 vulnerability and sea level rise data set and make
10 certain information received from the saltwater
11 intrusion vulnerability assessments available on its
12 website; requiring the department to provide cost-
13 share funding up to a specified amount for awarded
14 grants; specifying that certain counties are not
15 required to contribute to the cost-share funding;
16 providing an effective date.

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

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20 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
21 380.093, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (e) is
22 added to that subsection, to read:

23 380.093 Resilient Florida Grant Program; comprehensive
24 statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and
25 assessment; Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience
26 Plan; regional resilience entities.—

27 (3) RESILIENT FLORIDA GRANT PROGRAM.—

28 (b) Subject to appropriation, the department may provide
29 grants to a county or municipality to fund:

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30 1. The costs of community resilience planning and necessary
31 data collection for such planning, including comprehensive plan
32 amendments and necessary corresponding analyses that address the
33 requirements of s. 163.3178(2)(f).

34 2. Vulnerability assessments that identify or address risks
35 of inland or coastal flooding and sea level rise.

36 3. The development of projects, plans, and policies that
37 allow communities to prepare for threats from flooding and sea
38 level rise.

39 4. Preconstruction activities for projects to be submitted
40 for inclusion in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise
41 Resilience Plan which ~~that~~ are located in a municipality that
42 has a population of 10,000 or less ~~fewer~~ or a county that has a
43 population of 50,000 or less ~~fewer~~, according to the most recent
44 April 1 population estimates posted on the Office of Economic
45 and Demographic Research's website.

46 5. For coastal counties, saltwater intrusion vulnerability
47 assessments pursuant to paragraph (e).

48 (e) Under the Resilient Florida Grant Program, beginning
49 July 1, 2024, the department may provide grants to coastal
50 counties to conduct vulnerability assessments analyzing the
51 effects of saltwater intrusion on a county's water supply and
52 the preparedness of the county to respond to such a threat,
53 including water utility infrastructure, wellfield protection,
54 and freshwater supply management.

55 1. Each saltwater vulnerability assessment must include all
56 of the following information:

57 a. The county's primary water utilities.

58 b. Current maps of the county's freshwater wellfields and

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59 latest saltwater intrusion impact lines.

60 c. Projections of saltwater intrusion over the next decade,
61 including specific wells that may be impacted during that
62 timeframe.

63 d. An analysis of the costs necessary to relocate
64 freshwater wellfields anticipated to be impacted, including
65 current projects that are underway to relocate the freshwater
66 wellfields.

67 2. The department shall use the information contained in
68 the county's vulnerability assessment to update its
69 comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise
70 data set under subsection (4).

71 3. The department shall make available to the public, on
72 the department's website, any appropriate information from the
73 vulnerability assessment it receives from coastal counties
74 pursuant to this paragraph.

75 4. The department shall provide 50 percent cost-share
76 funding, up to \$250,000, for each grant awarded under this
77 paragraph. A county with a population of 50,000 or less is not
78 required to contribute to the cost share.

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