

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to dredging and beach restoration  
 3           projects; amending s. 403.816, F.S.; directing the  
 4           Department of Environmental Protection to require, as  
 5           a condition of permits issued for certain dredging and  
 6           beach restoration projects, that any adverse impact  
 7           analysis conducted for the activity meet certain  
 8           requirements; requiring a local government to provide  
 9           notice of its intent to conduct an analysis to certain  
 10          adjacent local governments; providing applicability;  
 11          providing a specified fine for violations; providing  
 12          an effective date.

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

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

19           403.816 Permits for maintenance dredging of deepwater  
 20           ports and beach restoration projects.—

21           (3) As a condition of a permit issued for a project  
 22           pursuant to this section, the department shall require that any  
 23           analysis to determine the adverse impacts of the activity on the  
 24           natural habitat be conducted by an independent contractor  
 25           selected by the local government and in a manner prescribed by

26 | the department. The independent contractor conducting the  
27 | analysis may not be associated with any project of the  
28 | contractor performing the activity for the local government for  
29 | a period of 1 year before the commencement of the analysis or  
30 | for a period of 1 year after the completion of the analysis. The  
31 | local government shall provide written notice of its intent to  
32 | have an analysis conducted to adjacent local governments that  
33 | may be impacted by the activity. However, this subsection does  
34 | not apply to any deepwater port maintenance dredging currently  
35 | permitted or maintained by the United States Army Corps of  
36 | Engineers. A violation of this subsection is punishable by a  
37 | fine of 10 percent of the total project cost or an amount  
38 | determined by the department or the United States Army Corps of  
39 | Engineers, whichever is greater.

40 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.