

By Senator Pizzo

37-00871-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to blue economy evaluation; amending  
3           s. 403.928, F.S.; requiring the Office of Economic and  
4           Demographic Research, beginning on a specified date,  
5           to biennially include an evaluation of the state's  
6           blue economy in its annual assessment; providing  
7           evaluation requirements; providing an effective date.  
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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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11           Section 1. Present subsections (5) and (6) of section  
12           403.928, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (6)  
13           and (7), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to that  
14           section, to read:

15           403.928 Assessment of water resources and conservation  
16           lands.—The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall  
17           conduct an annual assessment of Florida's water resources and  
18           conservation lands.

19           (5) BLUE ECONOMY.—Beginning with the assessment due on  
20           January 1, 2025, and biennially thereafter, the Office of  
21           Economic and Demographic Research shall include in the  
22           assessment an evaluation of the state's blue economy. The  
23           evaluation must include the following:

24           (a) Historical and current contributions of maritime  
25           industries to the state's economy, including, but not limited  
26           to:

27           1. Shipyards, marinas, marine terminals, piers, fishing,  
28           aquaculture, seafood processing, commercial diving, and marine  
29           transportation.

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- 30       2. Floating and amphibious housing.
- 31       3. Tourism.
- 32       4. Outdoor recreational activities, including, but not  
33 limited to, boating and other sectors dependent on such  
34 activities.
- 35       (b) Identification and discussion of any growing, emerging,  
36 or new blue economy industries.
- 37       (c) Appropriate economic comparisons to other states with  
38 maritime industries.
- 39       (d) Beginning January 1, 2026, an analysis of the  
40 contributions of the blue economy to the state, including, but  
41 not limited to, economic benefits as defined in s. 288.005.
- 42       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.