

By the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; and
Senators Garcia and Avila

592-01782-24

202432c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to mangrove replanting and
3 restoration; amending s. 403.9324, F.S.; requiring the
4 Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules
5 for mangrove replanting and restoration; providing
6 requirements for the rules; requiring the department,
7 in consultation with the Division of Insurance Agent
8 and Agency Services, to conduct a statewide
9 feasibility study regarding the use of mangroves and
10 other nature-based solutions in order to improve a
11 local government's community rating for flood
12 insurance purposes; requiring a report to the Governor
13 and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an
14 effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Subsections (7) and (8) are added to section
19 403.9324, Florida Statutes, to read:

20 403.9324 Mangrove protection rule; delegation of mangrove
21 protection to local governments.-

22 (7) The department shall adopt rules for mangrove
23 replanting and restoration. The rules must do all of the
24 following:

25 (a) Address significant erosion in areas of critical state
26 concern.

27 (b) Protect barrier and spoil islands.

28 (c) Assist Everglades restoration and Biscayne Bay
29 revitalization efforts, including the development of living

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202432c1

30 shoreline design options for the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve
31 which are ecologically acceptable and consistent with s.
32 258.397.

33 (d) Promote public awareness of the value of mangroves
34 statewide and support mangrove education campaigns conducted by
35 local governmental entities.

36 (e) Identify vulnerable public and private properties along
37 the coastline and encourage partnerships with local governmental
38 entities to create local mangrove protection and restoration
39 zone programs for implementing the rules developed by the
40 department pursuant to this subsection.

41 (f) Protect and maintain access to and navigation of the
42 marked channel and the right-of-way of the Florida Intracoastal
43 Waterway as defined in s. 327.02.

44 (g) Create permitting incentives and approve of and
45 encourage the use of new strategies for living shorelines and
46 nature-based features, such as mangroves for coastal protection.

47 (h) Encourage partnerships with local governmental entities
48 to create projects for coastal protection through the Resilient
49 Florida Grant Program pursuant to s. 380.093(3)(b)1.c.

50 (8) The department, in consultation with the Division of
51 Insurance Agent and Agency Services, shall conduct a statewide
52 feasibility study to determine the value of mangroves and other
53 nature-based solutions for coastal flood risk reduction within
54 coastal communities to reduce insurance premiums and improve
55 local governments' community ratings in the National Flood
56 Insurance Program Community Rating System. The department shall
57 submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
58 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by July 1, 2025.

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