

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00556B-24

2024608\_\_

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  
5       that, as a condition of permits issued for certain  
6       dredging and beach restoration projects, any adverse  
7       impact analysis conducted for the activity meet  
8       certain requirements; requiring a local government to  
9       provide notice of its intent to conduct an analysis to  
10      certain adjacent local governments; providing  
11      applicability; providing a specified fine for  
12      violations; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16       Section 1. Present subsection (3) of section 403.816,  
17       Florida 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 ports  
20       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

40-00556B-24

2024608\_\_

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.