

By the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; and
Senator Rodriguez

592-02839-25

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to infrastructure and resiliency;
amending s. 255.065, F.S.; revising the definition of
the term "qualifying project"; creating s. 380.0934,
F.S.; defining terms; granting the Department of
Environmental Protection the exclusive authority to
execute coastal resiliency projects through public-
private partnerships; authorizing the department to
take certain actions to encourage investment from the
private sector in coastal resiliency projects;
requiring the department to publish certain
information on its website; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
255.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

255.065 Public-private partnerships.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(i) "Qualifying project" means:

1. A facility or project that serves a public purpose,
including, but not limited to, any ferry or mass transit
facility, vehicle parking facility, airport or seaport facility,
rail facility or project, fuel supply facility, oil or gas
pipeline, medical or nursing care facility, recreational
facility, sporting or cultural facility, or educational facility
or other building or facility that is used or will be used by a
public educational institution, or any other public facility or

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infrastructure that is used or will be used by the public at large or in support of an accepted public purpose or activity;

2. An improvement, including equipment, of a building that will be principally used by a public entity or the public at large or that supports a service delivery system in the public sector;

3. A water, wastewater, or surface water management facility or other related infrastructure;

4. A coastal resiliency project as defined in s. 380.0934;
or

~~5.4.~~ Notwithstanding any provision of this section, for projects that involve a facility owned or operated by the governing board of a county, district, or municipal hospital or health care system, or projects that involve a facility owned or operated by a municipal electric utility, only those projects that the governing board designates as qualifying projects pursuant to this section.

Section 2. Section 380.0934, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

380.0934 Public-private partnerships for coastal resiliency projects.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Coastal resiliency project" means:

1. The planning, contracting, and execution of a project to address flooding and sea level rise in a coastal or inland community in this state pursuant to s. 380.093(5);

2. Public infrastructure repair and upgrades to seawalls and stormwater drainage; and

3. Resiliency measures designed to withstand extreme

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weather, mitigate flooding, and prevent coastal erosion,
including:

a. Acquisition of at-risk coastal and flood-prone
properties;

b. Acquisition of properties in areas at high risk of
flooding;

c. Infrastructure hardening and development of natural
barriers;

d. Construction of large-scale seawalls, levees, and
elevated flood barriers; or

e. Expansion and restoration of natural protective systems.

(b) "Department" means the Department of Environmental
Protection.

(c) "Public-private partnership" means a coastal resiliency
project entered into by the department under s. 255.065.

(2) The department shall have the exclusive authority to
execute coastal resiliency projects through public-private
partnerships under s. 255.065.

(3) To encourage investment from the private sector in
coastal resiliency projects, the department may:

(a) Enter into long-term revenue-sharing agreements.

(b) Provide expedited permitting for construction.

(c) Seek comments from local governments and the public
during project planning and execution and incorporate actions
responsive to such comments into the project.

(d) Engage in-state vocational schools and apprenticeship
programs to train workers in specialized resiliency
construction.

(4) The department shall publish biennial progress reports

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88 for each coastal resiliency project funded through a public-
89 private partnership, including project milestones, expenditures,
90 and public benefits, on the department's website. The department
91 shall also create and maintain on its website an online
92 dashboard for real-time updates on project execution.

93 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.