

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to nature-based methods for improving  
3 coastal resilience; amending s. 380.0933, F.S.;  
4 requiring the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research  
5 and Innovation at the University of South Florida  
6 College of Marine Science to develop design guidelines  
7 and standards for green and gray infrastructure and  
8 models for conceptual designs of green infrastructure  
9 and green-gray infrastructure; creating s. 380.0938,  
10 F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental  
11 Protection to adopt rules for nature-based methods for  
12 coastal resilience; providing requirements for such  
13 rules; requiring the department, in consultation with  
14 the Division of Insurance Agent and Agency Services of  
15 the Department of Financial Services, to conduct a  
16 statewide feasibility study regarding the value of  
17 nature-based methods being used for a specified  
18 purpose; requiring the department to submit a report  
19 to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified  
20 date; providing an effective date.

21  
22 WHEREAS, the coastline is a critical state resource that  
23 benefits the public interest by providing economic benefits,  
24 such as flood control, fishing, recreation, and navigation, and  
25 natural habitat and biodiversity functions, such as improved

26 | water quality and habitat for endangered and threatened species  
 27 | and other flora and fauna, and

28 |       WHEREAS, rising sea levels and an increasing frequency of  
 29 | adverse weather events pose a significant risk to people and  
 30 | property along the coastline and threaten the public benefits  
 31 | and functions offered by the coastline, and

32 |       WHEREAS, as identified in the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal  
 33 | Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, natural infrastructure,  
 34 | including mangrove stands, living seawalls, and other nature-  
 35 | based designs, can play an essential role in improving coastal  
 36 | resilience and mitigating harm to this state's coastlines, and

37 |       WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to promote state and local  
 38 | efforts to restore mangrove forests along the coastline and  
 39 | further study the impact of other nature-based methods on this  
 40 | state's coastal resilience and economic development, NOW,  
 41 | THEREFORE,

42 |  
 43 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44 |  
 45 |       Section 1. Present paragraphs (c) through (i) of  
 46 | subsection (2) of section 380.0933, Florida Statutes, are  
 47 | redesignated as paragraphs (e) through (k), respectively, and  
 48 | new paragraphs (c) and (d) are added to that subsection, to  
 49 | read:

50 |       380.0933 Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and

51 Innovation.—

52 (2) The hub shall, at a minimum:

53 (c) Develop design guidelines and standards for optimal  
54 combinations of green and gray infrastructure to address sea  
55 level rise and the impact of storm surges.

56 (d) Model the effects, including flood risk reduction and  
57 socio-economic benefits, of conceptual designs of green  
58 infrastructure and hybrid green-gray infrastructure, and  
59 integration of green natural systems into gray infrastructure  
60 systems, on this state's coastal resilience.

61 Section 2. Section 380.0938, Florida Statutes, is created  
62 to read:

63 380.0938 Nature-based methods for improving coastal  
64 resilience.—

65 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt  
66 rules governing nature-based methods for improving coastal  
67 resilience. The rules must do all of the following:

68 (a) Address significant erosion in areas of critical state  
69 concern.

70 (b) Identify ways that new developments can avoid or  
71 mitigate their impacts on mangrove stands.

72 (c) Encourage local governmental entities to develop or  
73 participate in:

74 1. Mangrove replanting and hydrological restoration  
75 programs; and

76        2. Restoration of oyster reefs, salt marshes, and coral  
77 reefs.

78        (d) Identify and monitor threats to mangroves.

79        (e) Protect barrier and spoil islands.

80        (f) Assist efforts to improve coastal resilience through  
81 the use of green infrastructure, beach renourishment, dune  
82 restoration, living seawalls, shoreline and vegetation planting,  
83 stormwater planters, permeable pavements, and ecologically sound  
84 building materials.

85        (g) Promote public awareness of the value of green  
86 infrastructure and statewide education campaigns conducted by  
87 local governmental entities.

88        (h) Identify vulnerable public and private properties  
89 along the coastline and encourage partnerships with local  
90 governmental entities to create local protection and restoration  
91 zone programs for implementing the rules developed by the  
92 department pursuant to this section.

93        (i) Protect and maintain access to and navigation of the  
94 marked channel and the right-of-way of the Florida Intracoastal  
95 Waterway as defined in s. 327.02.

96        (j) Create permitting incentives and approvals of, and  
97 encourage the use of, new strategies and technologies, such as  
98 3D printing, for living shorelines and nature-based features for  
99 coastal protection.

100       (k) Assist in the development of workforce training in

101 this state which includes flood and sea level rise research,  
102 prediction, and adaptation and mitigation strategies. The  
103 department shall provide incentives to local communities that  
104 apply for funding through the Workforce Development  
105 Capitalization Incentive Grant Program pursuant to s. 1011.801  
106 to implement such workforce training.

107 (l) Encourage partnerships with local governmental  
108 entities to create projects using green infrastructure for  
109 coastal protection through the Resilient Florida Grant Program  
110 pursuant to s. 380.093(3)(b)1.d.

111 (m) Develop guidelines for determining when a green  
112 infrastructure project is clearly in the public interest under  
113 s. 373.414(1)(a).

114 (n) Streamline the permitting process under s. 373.4131  
115 for green infrastructure projects.

116 (o) Streamline permitting after designated storm events or  
117 disasters to replace failed coastal infrastructure with green or  
118 hybrid green-gray infrastructure that follows established green  
119 and green-gray design guidelines.

120 (2) The department, in consultation with the Division of  
121 Insurance Agent and Agency Services, shall conduct a statewide  
122 feasibility study to determine the value of nature-based methods  
123 for coastal flood risk reduction within coastal communities to  
124 reduce insurance premiums and improve local governments'  
125 community ratings in the National Flood Insurance Program

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126 | Community Rating System. The department shall submit a report on  
127 | the findings of the study to the Governor, the President of the  
128 | Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by July  
129 | 1, 2026.

130 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.