

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; providing reporting
10 requirements; creating s. 380.0938, F.S.; requiring
11 the Department of Environmental Protection to develop
12 specified guidelines for nature-based methods for
13 coastal resilience and to finalize and publish the
14 guidelines by a specified date; requiring the
15 department to encourage local governments to
16 participate in certain restoration efforts; providing
17 an effective date.

18
19 WHEREAS, the coastline is a critical state resource that
20 benefits the public interest by providing economic benefits,
21 such as flood control, fishing, recreation, and navigation, and
22 natural habitat and biodiversity functions, such as improved
23 water quality and habitat for endangered and threatened species
24 and other flora and fauna, and

25 WHEREAS, rising sea levels and an increasing frequency of

26 | adverse weather events pose a significant risk to people and
 27 | property along the coastline and threaten the public benefits
 28 | and functions offered by the coastline, and

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

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

39 |

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

41 |

42 | **Section 1. Present paragraphs (c) through (i) of**
 43 | **subsection (2) of section 380.0933, Florida Statutes, are**
 44 | **redesignated as paragraphs (g) through (m), respectively, new**
 45 | **paragraphs (c) through (f) are added to subsection (2), and a**
 46 | **new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:**

47 | 380.0933 Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and
 48 | Innovation.—

49 | (2) The hub shall, at a minimum:

50 | (c) Develop design guidelines and standards for optimal

51 combinations of green and gray infrastructure to address sea
52 level rise and the impact of storm surges.

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

58 (e) Identify areas of significant erosion.

59 (f) Identify strategies and methods to minimize impacts to
60 mangroves and other native shoreline vegetation.

61 (6) By July 1, 2026, the hub shall submit a report
62 summarizing the design guidelines and standards developed
63 pursuant to paragraph (2)(c) and the modeled effects of
64 conceptual designs developed pursuant to paragraph (2)(d) to the
65 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
66 House of Representatives.

67 **Section 2. Section 380.0938, Florida Statutes, is created**
68 **to read:**

69 380.0938 Nature-based methods for improving coastal
70 resilience.—

71 (1) By July 1, 2027, the Department of Environmental
72 Protection shall develop and publish on its website guidelines
73 governing nature-based methods for improving coastal resilience.

74 The guidelines must identify all of the following:

75 (a) Threats to mangroves and other native shoreline

76 vegetation.

77 (b) Strategies that may be used for new developments to
 78 avoid or mitigate their impacts on mangroves and other native
 79 shoreline vegetation.

80 (c) Ways that mangroves, other native shoreline
 81 vegetation, and living shorelines may protect barrier and spoil
 82 islands.

83 (d) Areas or regions of the state in which the use of
 84 mangroves, other native shoreline vegetation, and living
 85 shorelines, or other nature-based infrastructure, could
 86 alleviate coastal erosion.

87 (2) The department shall encourage local governmental
 88 entities to develop or participate in:

89 (a) Mangrove planting and hydrological restoration
 90 programs; and

91 (b) Restoration and enhancement of oyster reefs, salt
 92 marshes, and coral reefs.

93 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.