

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

.

Representative Duggan offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 290 and 291, insert:

Section 5. Section 373.464, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

373.464 Ocklawaha River restoration, recreation, and economic development.-

(1) PROJECT LEAD.-The department shall, no later than August 31, 2026, hire a full-time equivalent contractor or employee, whose position title will be project lead, to oversee the implementation of this act. The project lead must have subject matter expertise in conservation and recreation

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14 planning.

15 (2) PROJECT PLAN.—

16 (a) By July 1, 2027, the department shall develop a
17 project plan for the restoration of the Ocklawaha River with the
18 goal of restoring the river's natural flow, hydrology, and
19 floodplain function to the approximate conditions that existed
20 before the construction of the Cross Florida Barge Canal project
21 and its associated project works. The project plan must provide
22 for restoration and increased resiliency and recreation benefits
23 of the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers and Silver Springs. The
24 project plan must incorporate best available science and include
25 engineering and design updates, including topographic and
26 bathymetric surveys, and precise estimates of material to be
27 dredged or excavated. In addition, the project plan must provide
28 recommendations for road and bridge construction that are
29 compatible with the restoration plan and ensure continued access
30 for the communities west of the project. The project plan must
31 include estimates by fiscal year of the cost of implementing the
32 project plan and potential sources of funding for such costs.

33 (b) Notwithstanding any law or rule, the project plan for
34 the restoration of the Ocklawaha River is an environmental
35 restoration or enhancement project subject to a general permit
36 from the department and water management districts for
37 environmental restoration or enhancement pursuant to rule 62-
38 330.405, Florida Administrative Code, and rule 62-330.485,

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39 Florida Administrative Code.

40 (c) Subject to the provision of state, federal, or other
41 funds, the department shall complete the restoration project
42 plan by December 31, 2032.

43 (3) NORTHEAST FLORIDA RIVER AND SPRINGS RECREATION AND
44 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

45 (a) Establishment of the council.—

46 1. By October 31, 2026, the Northeast Florida River and
47 Springs Recreation and Economic Development Advisory Council, an
48 advisory council as defined in s. 20.03(7), shall be established
49 and assigned to the department. The council shall be
50 administratively housed within the department. The project lead
51 shall serve as the council chair, and the members shall meet at
52 the call of the project lead. Members shall serve without
53 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
54 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061. Council members shall
55 serve 4-year terms, except that the initial terms shall be
56 staggered.

57 2. In addition to the project lead, the council shall be
58 composed of the following 19 members:

59 a. Six members of the council shall be appointed by and
60 serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall include
61 representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection,
62 the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Department of
63 Commerce.

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64 b. Six members of the council shall be appointed by the
65 Legislature, with three members appointed by the Senate and
66 three members appointed by the House of Representatives. The
67 appointees must include:

68 (I) One representative of river recreation-related
69 businesses local to Marion or Putnam County.

70 (II) One representative of recreation-related businesses
71 local to Marion County.

72 (III) One representative local to the Town of Welaka.

73 (IV) Two representatives local to Putnam County.

74 (V) One representative of an environmental community-
75 supporting organization who has subject matter expertise in
76 springs or rivers.

77 c. Six members of the council shall be appointed by the
78 boards of county commissioners for the following counties:

79 (I) Putnam County shall appoint two members, one of whom
80 oversees parks and recreation for the county.

81 (II) Marion County shall appoint two members, one of whom
82 oversees parks and recreation for the county.

83 (III) Clay County shall appoint one member.

84 (IV) St. Johns County shall appoint one member.

85 d. One member shall be the commanding officer of Naval Air
86 Station Jacksonville or his or her designee.

87 (b) Report.—The council shall submit an advisory report to
88 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the

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89 House of Representatives, and the department by February 1,
90 2027, and annual progress reports each February 1 thereafter.

91 The report must include all of the following:

92 1. Recommendations for projects to be included in the
93 outdoor recreation plan created in subsection (4), including
94 priorities for state-funded land projects.

95 2. Recommendations to the department for the creation of
96 guidelines to govern the grant program created in subsection
97 (5).

98 3. Recommendations to the Department of Commerce for the
99 creation of guidelines to administer the economic development
100 program created in subsection (6).

101 4. Recommendations for measures to minimize the impact of
102 the restoration plan on property owners or businesses directly
103 affected by the restoration project.

104 (c) Repeal.—In accordance with s. 20.052(8), this
105 subsection is repealed October 2, 2032, unless reviewed and
106 saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

107 (4) OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN.—

108 (a) The department, in collaboration with the Fish and
109 Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Northeast Florida River
110 and Springs Recreation and Economic Development Advisory
111 Council, and the local governments of river communities in Clay,
112 Marion, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties, shall develop an outdoor
113 recreation plan.

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114 (b) The outdoor recreation plan must identify and
115 implement projects for enhanced and expanded river and springs
116 access for recreational activities, such as fishing, hunting,
117 swimming, wildlife viewing, paddling, and hiking. Such projects
118 must be compatible with the project plan and applicable
119 statutes. The outdoor recreation plan must be made available for
120 public comment before its implementation.

121 (c) The department shall implement the outdoor recreation
122 plan by January 1, 2028.

123 (d) Subject to the provision of state, federal, or other
124 funds and the commencement of the project plan developed
125 pursuant to subsection (2), the department shall complete
126 projects on state-owned lands identified in the outdoor
127 recreation plan by December 31, 2035.

128 (5) GRANT PROGRAM.—

129 (a) By January 1, 2028, the department shall develop a
130 grant program for river communities in Clay, Marion, Putnam, and
131 St. Johns Counties to implement the outdoor recreation plan.

132 (b) The grant program must be compatible with the project
133 plan and outdoor recreation plan.

134 (c) The department shall implement the grant program upon
135 the commencement of the project plan developed pursuant to
136 subsection (2).

137 (6) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

138 (a) The Department of Commerce shall develop guidelines

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139 and processes for an economic development program for Marion and
140 Putnam Counties. The economic development program must support
141 projects that encourage job creation, capital investment, and
142 strengthening and diversification of each county's economy.

143 (b) The economic development program must be compatible
144 with the project plan, the outdoor recreation plan, and the
145 grant program.

146 (c) The Department of Commerce shall implement the
147 economic development program upon the commencement of the
148 project plan pursuant to subsection (2).

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove line 4 and insert:
solutions for coastal resiliency; creating s. 373.464,
F.S.; requiring the department, by a specified date,
to hire a project lead to oversee the implementation
of the act; requiring that the project lead have
certain expertise; requiring the department to
develop, by a specified date, a project plan for the
restoration of the Ocklawaha River; specifying
requirements for the project plan; providing that the
project plan is an environmental restoration or
enhancement project subject to a general permit from

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164 the department and water management districts;
165 requiring the department to complete the project plan
166 by a specified date, subject to the provision of
167 funds; creating the Northeast Florida River and
168 Springs Recreation and Economic Development Advisory
169 Council by a specified date; assigning the council to
170 the department; providing that the project lead is the
171 chair of the council; providing for council
172 membership, meetings, and duties; requiring the
173 council to submit an advisory report to the Governor,
174 the Legislature, and the department by a specified
175 date; specifying requirements for the advisory report;
176 providing for future repeal; requiring the department
177 to develop an outdoor recreation plan, in
178 collaboration with certain commissions, councils, and
179 local governments of river communities; specifying
180 requirements for the outdoor recreation plan;
181 requiring the department to implement the plan by a
182 specified date; requiring the department to complete
183 projects on state-owned lands in the outdoor
184 recreation plan by a specified date, subject to
185 certain funding; requiring the department to develop a
186 grant program for a specified purpose; requiring that
187 the grant program be compatible with certain plans;
188 requiring the department to implement the plan by a

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189 specified date; requiring the Department of Commerce
190 to develop guidelines and processes for and implement
191 an economic development program for Marion and Putnam
192 Counties for a specified purpose by a specified date;
193 requiring that the economic development plan be
194 compatible with certain plans and programs; requiring
195 the Department of Commerce to implement the economic
196 development program by a specified date; providing an

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