

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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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 Conservation Commission, and the  
63 Department of 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 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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151 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

152 Remove line 24 and insert:  
153 solutions for coastal resiliency; creating s. 373.464,  
154 F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental  
155 Protection, by a specified date, to hire a project  
156 lead to oversee the implementation of the act;  
157 requiring that the project lead have certain  
158 expertise; requiring the department to develop, by a  
159 specified date, a project plan for the restoration of  
160 the Ocklawaha River; specifying requirements for the  
161 project plan; providing that the project plan is an  
162 environmental restoration or enhancement project  
163 subject to a general permit from the department and

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

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

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