

CS/HB 669

2026

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to public mooring fields; amending s.  
373.118, F.S.; prohibiting local governments and  
special districts from applying for a permit to  
establish or maintain a public mooring field under  
certain circumstances; providing applicability;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 373.118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.118 General permits; delegation.—

(4) (a) The department shall adopt by rule one or more general permits for local governments to construct, operate, and maintain public mooring fields, public boat ramps, including associated courtesy docks, and associated parking facilities located in uplands. Such general permits adopted by rule shall include provisions to ensure compliance with part IV of this chapter, subsection (1), and the criteria necessary to include the general permits in a state programmatic general permit issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under s. 404 of the Clean Water Act, Pub. L. No. 92-500, as amended, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq. A facility authorized under such general permits is exempt from review as a development of regional

26 impact if the facility complies with the comprehensive plan of  
27 the applicable local government. Such facilities shall be  
28 consistent with the local government manatee protection plan  
29 required pursuant to chapter 379. Mooring fields authorized  
30 under such general permits may not exceed 100 vessels. All  
31 facilities permitted under this section shall be constructed,  
32 maintained, and operated in perpetuity for the exclusive use of  
33 the general public. The department is authorized to have  
34 delegation of authority from the Board of Trustees of the  
35 Internal Improvement Trust Fund to issue leases for mooring  
36 fields that meet the requirements of such general permits. The  
37 department shall initiate the rulemaking process within 60 days  
38 after the effective date of this act.

39 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
40 a county, municipality, or special district may not apply for a  
41 permit to establish or maintain a mooring field outside of its  
42 territorial boundaries. Notwithstanding any provision of law to  
43 the contrary, a county may not apply for a permit to establish  
44 or maintain a mooring field within an incorporated area. This  
45 paragraph does not apply to a mooring field that has been  
46 approved by all jurisdictional local governments or that has  
47 been issued a final, nonappealable permit by the department.

48 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.