

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to infrastructure and resiliency;
3 amending s. 255.065, F.S.; revising the definition of
4 the term "qualifying project"; creating s. 380.0934,
5 F.S.; providing definitions; providing that the
6 Department of Environmental Protection has the
7 exclusive authority to execute coastal resiliency
8 projects through public-private partnerships;
9 authorizing the department to take certain actions to
10 encourage investment from the private sector in
11 coastal resiliency projects; requiring the department
12 to publish certain information on its website;
13 providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 **Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section**
18 **255.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

19 255.065 Public-private partnerships.—

20 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

21 (i) "Qualifying project" means:

22 1. A facility or project that serves a public purpose,
23 including, but not limited to, any ferry or mass transit
24 facility, vehicle parking facility, airport or seaport facility,
25 rail facility or project, fuel supply facility, oil or gas

26 pipeline, medical or nursing care facility, recreational
27 facility, sporting or cultural facility, or educational facility
28 or other building or facility that is used or will be used by a
29 public educational institution, or any other public facility or
30 infrastructure that is used or will be used by the public at
31 large or in support of an accepted public purpose or activity;

32 2. An improvement, including equipment, of a building that
33 will be principally used by a public entity or the public at
34 large or that supports a service delivery system in the public
35 sector;

36 3. A water, wastewater, or surface water management
37 facility or other related infrastructure;

38 4. A coastal resiliency project as defined in s.
39 380.0934(1); or

40 5.4. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, for
41 projects that involve a facility owned or operated by the
42 governing board of a county, district, or municipal hospital or
43 health care system, or projects that involve a facility owned or
44 operated by a municipal electric utility, only those projects
45 that the governing board designates as qualifying projects
46 pursuant to this section.

47 **Section 2. Section 380.0934, Florida Statutes, is created**
48 **to read:**

49 380.0934 Public-private partnerships for coastal
50 resiliency projects.—

51 (1) As used in this section, the term:

52 (a) "Coastal resiliency project" means:

53 1. Planning, contracting, and executing a project to
54 address flooding and sea level rise in a coastal or inland
55 community in this state under s. 380.093(5);

56 2. Public infrastructure repair and upgrades to seawalls
57 and stormwater drainage; and

58 3. Resiliency measures designed to withstand extreme
59 weather, mitigate flooding, and prevent coastal erosion,
60 including:

61 a. Acquisition of at-risk coastal and flood-prone
62 properties;

63 b. Acquisition of properties in areas at high risk of
64 flooding;

65 c. Infrastructure hardening and development of natural
66 barriers;

67 d. Construction of large-scale seawalls, levees, and
68 elevated flood barriers; or

69 e. Expansion and restoration of natural protective
70 systems.

71 (b) "Department" means the Department of Environmental
72 Protection.

73 (c) "Public-private partnership" means a coastal
74 resiliency project entered into by the department under s.
75 255.065.

76 (2) The department has the exclusive authority to execute
77 coastal resiliency projects through public-private partnerships
78 under s. 255.065.

79 (3) To encourage investment from the private sector in
80 coastal resiliency projects, the department may:

81 (a) Enter into long-term revenue-sharing agreements.

82 (b) Provide expedited permitting for construction.

83 (c) Seek comments from local governments and the public
84 during project planning and execution and incorporate actions
85 responsive to such comments into the project.

86 (d) Engage in-state vocational schools and apprenticeship
87 programs to train workers in specialized resiliency
88 construction.

89 (4) The department shall publish on its website biennial
90 progress reports for each coastal resiliency project funded
91 through a public-private partnership, including project
92 milestones, expenditures, and public benefits. The department
93 shall also create and maintain on its website an online
94 dashboard for real-time updates on project execution.

95 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.