By Senator Rodriguez

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Florida Disaster Resilience
Task Force; creating s. 373.469, F.S.; establishing
the task force adjunct to the Department of
Environmental Protection; providing the purpose and
membership of the task force; requiring the appointees
to be experts from specified subject areas; requiring
a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a
specified date; providing requirements for the report;
requiring the department to post the report on the
department’s website; providing for expiration of the
task force; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 373.469, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

373.469 Florida Disaster Resilience Task Force.—The Florida
Disaster Resilience Task Force, a task force as defined in s.
20.03, is established adjunct to the Department of Environmental
Protection.

(1) The purpose of the task force is to evaluate ways to
protect this state’s remaining coastal ecosystems and natural
habitats, increase coastal community resilience in the face of
sea-level rise, and apply the best available science as to sea-
level rise and its anticipated impacts.

(2)(a) The task force shall consist of the following seven
members:

1. The Secretary of Environmental Protection or his or her
2. Two members appointed by the Governor.

3. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate.

4. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) The appointments must be made from individuals who have expertise in any of the following areas: climatology, hydrology, economics, marine fisheries, law enforcement and emergency management, estuary programs, oceanography or coastal ocean science, and ecology or environmental biology.

(3) By July 1, 2022, the task force shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a report that contains all of the following:

(a) An assessment of the anticipated impacts to this state due to sea-level rise.

(b) Recommendations for stronger, more protective standards and the implementation and enforcement of such standards for coastal development, wetlands protection, shoreline armoring, and storm recovery, as it relates to sea-level rise.

(c) Recommendations for adaptive measures to respond to sea-level rise, including, but not limited to, protecting and connecting terrestrial and aquatic habitats to allow animal and plant species to migrate as temperatures change; protect and restore habitat on which already stressed animal and plant species depend to maintain the integrity of natural communities and to protect the ecological services they provide, including flood control, drinking water supply protection, and purification of water and the air; identify and monitor early
effects of climate change on animals, plants, and natural communities; and integrate climate change adaptation strategies into state environmental plans.

(d) Recommendations for statutory changes necessary to implement any of the recommendations in this subsection.

(4) The department shall post a copy of the report in a prominent location on its website.

(5) The task force and this section shall expire July 1, 2022.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.