

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/HB 111 — Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies

by Agriculture, Conservation, and Resiliency Subcommittee and Rep. Hunschofsky and others
(CS/SB 1170 by Fiscal Policy Committee and Senators Calatayud and Garcia)

The bill substantially expands the geographical area where a sea level impact projection (SLIP) study is required and changes the types of structures that this requirement applies to. Currently, a SLIP study must be conducted before beginning construction of a new coastal structure within the coastal building zone. The bill amends this requirement by providing that, beginning July 1, 2024, a SLIP study must be conducted before beginning construction of a “potentially at risk structure or infrastructure” in an area at risk due to sea level rise, regardless of whether it is within the coastal building zone. The bill repeals the current SLIP program on July 1, 2024.

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The bill directs DEP to update its SLIP study rules to provide for the changes required under this bill. In addition to the requirements for the existing rule, the revised rules must include a requirement that state-financed constructors assess the risk of flooding, inundation, and wave action damage to potentially at-risk structures or infrastructure and provide a list of flood mitigation strategies for consideration as part of the structure or infrastructure’s design.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023, unless otherwise provided.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 117-0