1 2 An act relating to the protection of marine 3 turtles; amending s. 370.12, F.S.; providing 4 penalties for violating the Marine Turtle 5 Protection Act; providing first-degree misdemeanor and third-degree felony penalties 6 7 for knowingly possessing a specified number or more of marine turtle eggs; providing an 8 9 additional penalty for each egg involved in such a violation; providing that it is a 10 third-degree felony to knowingly take, disturb, 11 12 mutilate, destroy, cause to be destroyed, transfer, sell, offer to sell, molest, or 13 14 harass a marine turtle or its nest, hatchings, eggs, or parts thereof; providing that it is a 15 third-degree felony to solicit or conspire to 16 violate the Marine Turtle Protection Act; 17 amending s. 777.04, F.S.; relating to the 18 19 offense of criminal attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy; providing 20 21 that a violation of the Marine Turtle Protection Act is exempt from certain 22 23 sentencing requirements for an offense of solicitation or conspiracy; amending s. 24 921.0022, F.S.; relating to the offense 25 26 severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code; conforming provisions of the 27 28 Act to the Code; providing an effective date. 29 30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 31

1	Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 370.12, Florida					
2	Statutes, is amended to read:					
3	370.12 Marine animals; regulation					
4	(1) PROTECTION OF MARINE TURTLES					
5	(a) This subsection may be cited as the "Marine Turtle					
6	Protection Act."					
7	(b) The Legislature intends, pursuant to the					
8	provisions of this subsection, to ensure that the Fish and					
9	Wildlife Conservation Commission has the appropriate authority					
10	and resources to implement its responsibilities under the					
11	recovery plans of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service					
12	for the following species of marine turtle:					
13	1. Atlantic loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta					
14	caretta).					
15	2. Atlantic green turtle (Chelonia mydas) (Chelonis					
16	mydas mydas).					
17	3. Leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea).					
18	4. Atlantic hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata					
19	imbricata).					
20	5. Atlantic ridley turtle (Lepidochelys kempi).					
21	(c) As used in this subsection, the following phrases					
22	have the following meanings:					
23	1. A "properly accredited person" is:					
24	a. Students of colleges or universities whose studies					
25	with saltwater animals are under the direction of their					
26	teacher or professor; or					
27	b. Scientific or technical faculty of public or					
28	private colleges or universities; or					
29	c. Scientific or technical employees of private					
30	research institutions and consulting firms; or					
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d. Scientific or technical employees of city, county,

- state, or federal research or regulatory agencies; or
- e. Members in good standing or recognized and properly chartered conservation organizations, the Audubon Society, or the Sierra Club; or
- <u>f. Persons affiliated with aquarium facilities or</u>

 <u>museums, or contracted as an agent therefor, which are open to</u>

 the public with or without an admission fee; or
- g. Persons without specific affiliations listed above, but who are recognized by the commission for their contributions to marine conservation such as scientific or technical publications, or through a history of cooperation with the commission in conservation programs such as turtle nesting surveys, or through advanced educational programs such as high school marine science centers.
- 2. "Take" means an act that actually kills or injures marine turtles, and includes significant habitat modification or degradation that kills or injures marine turtles by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering.
- (d) Except as authorized in this paragraph, or unless otherwise provided by the Federal Endangered Species Act or its implementing regulations, a person, firm, or corporation may not:
- 1. Knowingly possess the eggs of any marine turtle species described in this subsection.
- 2. Knowingly take, disturb, mutilate, destroy, cause to be destroyed, transfer, sell, offer to sell, molest, or harass any marine turtles or the eggs or nest of any marine turtles described in this subsection.

- 3. The commission may issue a special permit or loan agreement to any person, firm, or corporation, to enable the holder to possess a marine turtle or parts thereof, including nests, eggs, or hatchlings, for scientific, education, or exhibition purposes, or for conservation activities such as the relocation of nests, eggs, or marine turtles away from construction sites. Notwithstanding other provisions of law, the commission may issue such special permit or loan agreement to any properly accredited person as defined in paragraph (c) for the purposes of marine turtle conservation.
- 4. The commission shall have the authority to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 to prescribe terms, conditions, and restrictions for marine turtle conservation, and to permit the possession of marine turtles or parts thereof.
- (e)1. Any person, firm, or corporation that commits any act prohibited in paragraph (d) involving any egg of any marine turtle species described in this subsection shall pay a penalty of \$100 per egg in addition to other penalties provided in this paragraph.
- 2. Any person, firm, or corporation that illegally possesses 11 or fewer of any eggs of any marine turtle species described in this subsection commits a first degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 and s. 775.083.
- 3. For a second or subsequent violation of sub-paragraph 2, any person, firm, or corporation that illegally possesses 11 or fewer of any eggs of any marine turtle species described in this subsection commits a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- 4. Any person, firm, or corporation that illegally
 possesses more than 11 of any eggs of any marine turtle
 species described in this subsection commits a third degree
 felony, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or
 s. 775.084.
 - 5. Any person, firm, or corporation who illegally takes, disturbs, mutilates, destroys, causes to be destroyed, transfers, sells, offers to sell, molests, or harasses any marine turtle species, or the eggs or nest of any marine turtle species as described in this subsection, commits a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 - 6. Notwithstanding s. 777.04, any person, firm, or corporation who solicits or conspires with another person, firm, or corporation, to commit an act prohibited by this subsection commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 - 7. The proceeds from the penalties assessed pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund.
 - (c)1. Unless otherwise provided by the federal Endangered Species Act or its implementing regulations, no person may take, possess, disturb, mutilate, destroy, cause to be destroyed, sell, offer for sale, transfer, molest, or harass any marine turtle or its nest or eggs at any time. For purposes of this subsection, "take" means an act which actually kills or injures marine turtles, and includes significant habitat modification or degradation that kills or injures marine turtles by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

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Unless otherwise provided by the federal Endangered Species Act or its implementing regulations, no person, firm, or corporation may take, kill, disturb, mutilate, molest, harass, or destroy any marine turtle. 3. No person, firm, or corporation may possess any

marine turtle, their nests, eggs, hatchlings, or parts thereof unless it is in possession of a special permit or loan agreement from the commission enabling the holder to possess a marine turtle or parts thereof for scientific, educational, or exhibitional purposes, or for conservation activities such as relocating nests, eggs, or animals away from construction sites. Notwithstanding any other provisions of general or special law to the contrary, the commission may issue such authorization to any properly accredited person for the purpose of marine turtle conservation upon such terms, conditions, and restrictions as it may prescribe by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 120. The commission shall have the authority to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 to permit the possession of marine turtles pursuant to this paragraph. For the purposes of this subsection, a "properly accredited person" is defined as:

a. Students of colleges or universities whose studies with saltwater animals are under the direction of their teacher or professor;

b. Scientific or technical faculty of public or private colleges or universities;

c. Scientific or technical employees of private research institutions and consulting firms;

d. Scientific or technical employees of city, county, state, or federal research or regulatory agencies;

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Members in good standing or recognized and properly chartered conservation organizations, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club;

- f. Persons affiliated with aquarium facilities or museums, or contracted as an agent therefor, which are open to the public with or without an admission fee; or
- g. Persons without specific affiliations listed above, but who are recognized by the commission for their contributions to marine conservation such as scientific or technical publications, or through a history of cooperation with the commission in conservation programs such as turtle nesting surveys, or through advanced educational programs such as high school marine science centers.
- (f) Any application for a Department of Environmental Protection permit or other type of approval for an activity that affects marine turtles or their nests or habitat shall be subject to conditions and requirements for marine turtle protection as part of the permitting or approval process.

(g)(e) The Department of Environmental Protection may condition the nature, timing, and sequence of construction of permitted activities to provide protection to nesting marine turtles and hatchlings and their habitat pursuant to the provisions of s. 161.053(5). When the department is considering a permit for a beach restoration, beach renourishment, or inlet sand transfer project and the applicant has had an active marine turtle nest relocation program or the applicant has agreed to and has the ability to administer a program, the department must not restrict the timing of the project. Where appropriate, the department, in accordance with the applicable rules of the Fish and Wildlife

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Conservation Commission, shall require as a condition of the permit that the applicant relocate and monitor all turtle nests that would be affected by the beach restoration, beach renourishment, or sand transfer activities. Such relocation and monitoring activities shall be conducted in a manner that ensures successful hatching. This limitation on the department's authority applies only on the Atlantic coast of Florida.

(h)(f) The department shall recommend denial of a permit application if the activity would result in a "take" as defined in this subsection, unless, as provided for in the federal Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations, such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity.

(i)(g) The department shall give special consideration to beach preservation and beach nourishment projects that restore habitat of endangered marine turtle species. Nest relocation shall be considered for all such projects in urbanized areas. When an applicant for a beach restoration, beach renourishment, or inlet sand transfer project has had an active marine turtle nest relocation program or the applicant has agreed to have and has the ability to administer a program, the department in issuing a permit for a project must not restrict the timing of the project. Where appropriate, the department, in accordance with the applicable rules of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, shall require as a condition of the permit that the applicant relocate and monitor all turtle nests that would be affected by the beach restoration, beach renourishment, or sand transfer activities. Such relocation and monitoring activities shall be conducted in a manner that ensures successful hatching. This limitation

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on the department's authority applies only on the Atlantic coast of Florida.

(j) (h) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall provide grants to coastal local governments, educational institutions, and Florida-based nonprofit organizations to conduct marine turtle research, conservation, and education activities within the state. The commission shall adopt by rule pursuant to chapter 120 procedures for submitting grant applications and criteria for allocating available funds. The criteria must include the scope of the proposed activity, the relevance of the proposed activity to the recovery plans for marine turtles, the demand and public support for the proposed activity, the duration of the proposed activity, the availability of alternative funding, and the estimated cost of the activity. The executive director of the commission shall appoint a committee of at least five members, including at least two nongovernmental representatives, to consider and choose grant recipients from proposals submitted by eligible entities. Committee members shall not receive any compensation from the commission.

Section 2. Paragraphs (a), (d), and (e) of subsection (4) of section 777.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

777.04 Attempts, solicitation, and conspiracy.--

(4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in ss. 104.091(2), 370.12(1),828.125(2), 849.25(4), 893.135(5), and 921.0022, the offense of criminal attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy is ranked for purposes of sentencing under chapter 921 and determining incentive gain-time eligibility under chapter 944 one level below the ranking under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 of the offense attempted, solicited, or conspired to. If the criminal attempt, criminal

solicitation, or criminal conspiracy is of an offense ranked in level 1 or level 2 under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023, such 2 offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as 3 4 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. 5 (d) Except as otherwise provided in s. 104.091(2), s. 6 370.12(1),s. 828.125(2), or s. 849.25(4), if the offense 7 attempted, solicited, or conspired to is a: 1. Felony of the second degree; 8 2. Burglary that is a felony of the third degree; or 9 10 3. Felony of the third degree ranked in level 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023, 11 12 the offense of criminal attempt, criminal solicitation, or 13 14 criminal conspiracy is a felony of the third degree, 15 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. 16 17 (e) Except as otherwise provided in s. 104.091(2), s. 370.12(1),s. 849.25(4), or paragraph (d), if the offense 18 19 attempted, solicited, or conspired to is a felony of the third degree, the offense of criminal attempt, criminal 20 solicitation, or criminal conspiracy is a misdemeanor of the 21 22 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 23 775.083. Section 3. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (3) of 24 section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 25 26 921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart .--27 28 (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART 29 30

1	Florida	Felony	
2	Statute	Degree	Description
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5			(b) LEVEL 2
6	370.12(1)(e)3.	<u>3rd</u>	Possession of 11 or fewer marine
7			turtle eggs in violation of the
8			Marine Turtle Protection Act.
9	370.12(1)(e)4.	<u>3rd</u>	Possession of more than 11 marine
10			turtle eggs in violation of the
11			Marine Turtle Protection Act.
12	403.413(5)(c)	3rd	Dumps waste litter exceeding 500
13			lbs. in weight or 100 cubic feet
14			in volume or any quantity for
15			commercial purposes, or hazardous
16			waste.
17	517.07	3rd	Registration of securities and
18			furnishing of prospectus
19			required.
20	590.28(1)	3rd	Willful, malicious, or
21			intentional burning.
22	784.05(3)	3rd	Storing or leaving a loaded
23			firearm within reach of minor who
24			uses it to inflict injury or
25			death.
26	787.04(1)	3rd	In violation of court order,
27			take, entice, etc., minor beyond
28			state limits.
29	806.13(1)(b)3.	3rd	Criminal mischief; damage \$1,000
30			or more to public communication
31			or any other public service.
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1	810.09(2)(e)	3rd	Trespassing on posted commercial
2			horticulture property.
3	812.014(2)(c)1.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree; \$300 or
4			more but less than \$5,000.
5	812.014(2)(d)	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree; \$100 or
6			more but less than \$300, taken
7			from unenclosed curtilage of
8			dwelling.
9	812.015(7)	3rd	Possession, use, or attempted use
10			of an antishoplifting or
11			inventory control device
12			countermeasure.
13	817.234(1)(a)2.	3rd	False statement in support of
14			insurance claim.
15	817.481(3)(a)	3rd	Obtain credit or purchase with
16			false, expired, counterfeit,
17			etc., credit card, value over
18			\$300.
19	817.52(3)	3rd	Failure to redeliver hired
20			vehicle.
21	817.54	3rd	With intent to defraud, obtain
22			mortgage note, etc., by false
23			representation.
24	817.60(5)	3rd	Dealing in credit cards of
25			another.
26	817.60(6)(a)	3rd	Forgery; purchase goods, services
27			with false card.
28	817.61	3rd	Fraudulent use of credit cards
29			over \$100 or more within 6
30			months.
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1	826.04	3rd	Knowingly marries or has sexual
2			intercourse with person to whom
3			related.
4	831.01	3rd	Forgery.
5	831.02	3rd	Uttering forged instrument;
6			utters or publishes alteration
7			with intent to defraud.
8	831.07	3rd	Forging bank bills, checks,
9			drafts, or promissory notes.
10	831.08	3rd	Possessing 10 or more forged
11			notes, bills, checks, or drafts.
12	831.09	3rd	Uttering forged notes, bills,
13			checks, drafts, or promissory
14			notes.
15	831.11	3rd	Bringing into the state forged
16			bank bills, checks, drafts, or
17			notes.
18	832.05(3)(a)	3rd	Cashing or depositing item with
19			intent to defraud.
20	843.08	3rd	Falsely impersonating an officer.
21	893.13(2)(a)2.	3rd	Purchase of any s. 893.03(1)(c),
22			(2)(c)1., (2)(c)2., (2)(c)3.,
23			(2)(c)5., (2)(c)6., (2)(c)7.,
24			(2)(c)8., (2)(c)9., (3), or (4)
25			drugs other than cannabis.
26	893.147(2)	3rd	Manufacture or delivery of drug
27			paraphernalia.
28			(c) LEVEL 3
29	316.193(2)(b)	3rd	Felony DUI, 3rd conviction.
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1	316.1935(2)	3rd	Fleeing or attempting to elude
2			law enforcement officer in marked
3			patrol vehicle with siren and
4			lights activated.
5	319.30(4)	3rd	Possession by junkyard of motor
6			vehicle with identification
7			number plate removed.
8	319.33(1)(a)	3rd	Alter or forge any certificate of
9			title to a motor vehicle or
10			mobile home.
11	319.33(1)(c)	3rd	Procure or pass title on stolen
12			vehicle.
13	319.33(4)	3rd	With intent to defraud, possess,
14			sell, etc., a blank, forged, or
15			unlawfully obtained title or
16			registration.
17	327.35(2)(b)	3rd	Felony BUI.
18	328.05(2)	3rd	Possess, sell, or counterfeit
19			fictitious, stolen, or fraudulent
20			titles or bills of sale of
21			vessels.
22	328.07(4)	3rd	Manufacture, exchange, or possess
23			vessel with counterfeit or wrong
24			ID number.
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1	370.12(1)(e)5.	3rd	Taking, disturbing, mutilating,
2	370:12(1)(0)3:	<u>31 u</u>	destroying, causing to be
3			destroyed, transferring, selling,
4			offering to sell, molesting, or
5			harassing marine turtles, marine
6			turtle eggs, or marine turtle
7			nests in violation of the Marine
8			Turtle Protection Act.
9	370.12(1)(e)6.	3rd	Soliciting to commit or
10	370.12(1)(0)0.	<u>51 u</u>	conspiring to commit a violation
11			of the Marine Turtle Protection
12			Act.
13	376.302(5)	3rd	Fraud related to reimbursement
14	370.302(3)	31 a	
			for cleanup expenses under the Inland Protection Trust Fund.
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16	501.001(2)(b)	2nd	Tampers with a consumer product
17			or the container using materially
18			false/misleading information.
19	697.08	3rd	Equity skimming.
20	790.15(3)	3rd	Person directs another to
21			discharge firearm from a vehicle.
22	796.05(1)	3rd	Live on earnings of a prostitute.
23	806.10(1)	3rd	Maliciously injure, destroy, or
24			interfere with vehicles or
25			equipment used in firefighting.
26	806.10(2)	3rd	Interferes with or assaults
27			firefighter in performance of
28			duty.
29	810.09(2)(c)	3rd	Trespass on property other than
30			structure or conveyance armed
31			with firearm or dangerous weapon.
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1	812.014(2)(c)2.	3rd	Grand theft; \$5,000 or more but
2			less than \$10,000.
3	812.0145(2)(c)	3rd	Theft from person 65 years of age
4			or older; \$300 or more but less
5			than \$10,000.
6	815.04(4)(b)	2nd	Computer offense devised to
7			defraud or obtain property.
8	817.034(4)(a)3.	3rd	Engages in scheme to defraud
9			(Florida Communications Fraud
10			Act), property valued at less
11			than \$20,000.
12	817.233	3rd	Burning to defraud insurer.
13	817.234(8)&(9)	3rd	Unlawful solicitation of persons
14			involved in motor vehicle
15			accidents.
16	817.234(11)(a)	3rd	Insurance fraud; property value
17			less than \$20,000.
18	817.505(4)	3rd	Patient brokering.
19	828.12(2)	3rd	Tortures any animal with intent
20			to inflict intense pain, serious
21			physical injury, or death.
22	831.28(2)(a)	3rd	Counterfeiting a payment
23			instrument with intent to defraud
24			or possessing a counterfeit
25			payment instrument.
26	831.29	2nd	Possession of instruments for
27			counterfeiting drivers' licenses
28			or identification cards.
29	838.021(3)(b)	3rd	Threatens unlawful harm to public
30			servant.
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1	843.19	3rd	Injure, disable, or kill police
2			dog or horse.
3	870.01(2)	3rd	Riot; inciting or encouraging.
4	893.13(1)(a)2.	3rd	Sell, manufacture, or deliver
5			cannabis (or other s.
6			893.03(1)(c), (2)(c)1., (2)(c)2.,
7			(2)(c)3., (2)(c)5., (2)(c)6.,
8			(2)(c)7., (2)(c)8., (2)(c)9.,
9			(3), or (4) drugs).
10	893.13(1)(d)2.	2nd	Sell, manufacture, or deliver s.
11			893.03(1)(c), (2)(c)1., (2)(c)2.,
12			(2)(c)3., (2)(c)5., (2)(c)6.,
13			(2)(c)7., (2)(c)8., (2)(c)9.,
14			(3), or (4) drugs within 200 feet
15			of university or public park.
16	893.13(1)(f)2.	2nd	Sell, manufacture, or deliver s.
17			893.03(1)(c), (2)(c)1., (2)(c)2.,
18			(2)(c)3., (2)(c)5., (2)(c)6.,
19			(2)(c)7., (2)(c)8., (2)(c)9.,
20			(3), or (4) drugs within 200 feet
21			of public housing facility.
22	893.13(6)(a)	3rd	Possession of any controlled
23			substance other than felony
24			possession of cannabis.
25	893.13(7)(a)8.	3rd	Withhold information from
26			practitioner regarding previous
27			receipt of or prescription for a
28			controlled substance.
29	893.13(7)(a)9.	3rd	Obtain or attempt to obtain
30			controlled substance by fraud,
31			forgery, misrepresentation, etc.
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1	893.13(7)(a)10.	3rd	Affix false or forged label to
2			package of controlled substance.
3	893.13(7)(a)11.	3rd	Furnish false or fraudulent
4			material information on any
5			document or record required by
6			chapter 893.
7	893.13(8)(a)1.	3rd	Knowingly assist a patient, other
8			person, or owner of an animal in
9			obtaining a controlled substance
10			through deceptive, untrue, or
11			fraudulent representations in or
12			related to the practitioner's
13			practice.
14	893.13(8)(a)2.	3rd	Employ a trick or scheme in the
15			practitioner's practice to assist
16			a patient, other person, or owner
17			of an animal in obtaining a
18			controlled substance.
19	893.13(8)(a)3.	3rd	Knowingly write a prescription
20			for a controlled substance for a
21			fictitious person.
22	893.13(8)(a)4.	3rd	Write a prescription for a
23			controlled substance for a
24			patient, other person, or an
25			animal if the sole purpose of
26			writing the prescription is a
27			monetary benefit for the
28			practitioner.
29	918.13(1)(a)	3rd	Alter, destroy, or conceal
30			investigation evidence.
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1	944.47		
2	(1)(a)12.	3rd	Introduce contraband to
3			correctional facility.
4	944.47(1)(c)	2nd	Possess contraband while upon the
5			grounds of a correctional
6			institution.
7	985.3141	3rd	Escapes from a juvenile facility
8			(secure detention or residential
9			commitment facility).
10	Section 4.	This act	shall take effect July 1, 2003.
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