

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: FAV 03/31/2009

The Committee on Community Affairs (Altman) recommended the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), and in recognition of the 2009 real estate market conditions, any permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, any permit issued by a water management district under part IV of chapter 373, any development order issued by the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to s. 380.06, and any development order, building permit, or other land use approval issued by a

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local government that expired or will expire on or after September 1, 2008 but before September 1, 2011, is extended and renewed for a period of 3 years following its date of expiration. For development orders and land use approvals, including but not limited to certificates of concurrency and development agreements, this extension shall also include phase, commencement, and buildout dates, including any buildout date extension previously granted under s. 380.06(19)(c). This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit conversion from the construction phase to the operation phase upon completion of construction for combined construction and operation permits.

- (2) The completion date for any required mitigation associated with a phased construction project shall be extended and renewed so that mitigation takes place in the same timeframe relative to the phase as originally permitted.
- (3) The holder of an agency or district permit, or a development, order, building permit, or other land use approval issued by a local government that is eligible for the 3-year extension shall notify the authorizing agency in writing no later than September 30, 2010, identifying the specific authorization for which the holder intends to use the extended or renewed permit, order, or approval.
- (4) The extensions and renewals provided for in subsection (1) do not apply to:
- (a) A permit or other authorization under any programmatic or regional general permit issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- (b) An agency or district permit, or a development order, building permit, or other land use approval issued by a local

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government and held by an owner or operator determined to be in significant noncompliance with the conditions of the permit, order, or approval as established through the issuance of a warning letter or notice of violation, the initiation of formal enforcement, or other equivalent action by the authorizing agency.

(5) Permits, development orders, and other land use approvals extended and renewed under this section shall continue to be governed by rules in effect at the time the permit, order, or approval was issued. This subsection shall apply to any modification of the plans, terms, and conditions of such permit, development order, or other land use approval that lessens the environmental impact, except that any such modification shall not extend the permit, order, or other land use approval beyond the 3 years authorized under subsection (1).

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 120.569, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.569 Decisions which affect substantial interests.-

(1) The provisions of this section apply in all proceedings in which the substantial interests of a party are determined by an agency, unless the parties are proceeding under s. 120.573 or s. 120.574. Unless waived by all parties, s. 120.57(1) applies whenever the proceeding involves a disputed issue of material fact. Unless otherwise agreed, s. 120.57(2) applies in all other cases. If a disputed issue of material fact arises during a proceeding under s. 120.57(2), then, unless waived by all parties, the proceeding under s. 120.57(2) shall be terminated and a proceeding under s. 120.57(1) shall be conducted. Parties shall be notified of any order, including a final order. Unless

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waived, a copy of the order shall be delivered or mailed to each party or the party's attorney of record at the address of record. Each notice shall inform the recipient of any administrative hearing or judicial review that is available under this section, s. 120.57, or s. 120.68; shall indicate the procedure which must be followed to obtain the hearing or judicial review; and shall state the time limits which apply. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, notice of the procedure to obtain an administrative hearing or judicial review, including any items required by the uniform rules adopted pursuant to s. 120.54(5), may be provided via a link to a publicly available Internet site.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of Section 120.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.60 Licensing.-

(1) Upon receipt of an application for a license, an agency shall examine the application and, within 30 days after such receipt, notify the applicant of any apparent errors or omissions and request any additional information the agency is permitted by law to require. If the applicant believes the request for such additional information is not authorized by law or agency rule, the agency, at the applicant's request, shall proceed to process the permit application. An agency shall not deny a license for failure to correct an error or omission or to supply additional information unless the agency timely notified the applicant within this 30-day period. An application shall be considered complete upon receipt of all requested information and correction of any error or omission for which the applicant was timely notified or when the time for such notification has

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expired. Every application for a license shall be approved or denied within 90 days after receipt of a completed application unless a shorter period of time for agency action is provided by law. The 90-day time period shall be tolled by the initiation of a proceeding under ss. 120.569 and 120.57. Any application for a license that is not approved or denied within the 90-day or shorter time period, within 15 days after conclusion of a public hearing held on the application, or within 45 days after a recommended order is submitted to the agency and the parties, whichever action and timeframe is latest and applicable, is considered approved unless the recommended order recommends that the agency deny the license. Subject to the satisfactory completion of an examination if required as a prerequisite to licensure, any license that is considered approved shall be issued and may include such reasonable conditions as are authorized by law. Any applicant for licensure seeking to claim licensure by default under this subsection shall notify the agency clerk of the licensing agency, in writing, of the intent to rely upon the default license provision of this subsection, and shall not take any action based upon the default license until after receipt of such notice by the agency clerk.

Section 4. Section 125.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.022 Development permits. - When a county denies an application for a development permit, the county shall give written notice to the applicant. The notice must include a citation to the applicable portions of an ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal authority for the denial of the permit. As used in this section, the term "development permit" has the

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same meaning as in s. 163.3164. No county may require as a condition of approval for a development permit that an applicant obtain a permit or approval from any other state or federal agency. Issuance of a development permit by a county does not in any way create any rights on the part of an applicant to obtain a permit from another state or federal agency and does not create any liability on the part of the county for issuance of the permit in the event that an applicant fails to fulfill its legal obligations to obtain requisite approvals or fulfill the obligations imposed by other state or federal agencies. Counties may attach this disclaimer to the issuance of development permits and may include a permit condition that all other applicable state or federal permits must be obtained prior to development. This shall not be construed to prohibit a county from providing information to an applicant regarding what other state or federal permits may be applicable.

Section 5. Section 161.032, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

161.032 Application reviews; additional information. (1) Within 30 days after receipt of an application for a permit under this part, the department shall review the application and shall request submittal of all additional information the department is permitted by law or rule to require. If the applicant believes any request for additional information is not authorized by law or rule, the applicant may request a hearing pursuant to s. 120.57. Within 30 days after receipt of such additional information, the department shall review it and may request only that information needed to clarify such additional information or to answer new questions

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raised by or directly related to such additional information. If the applicant believes the request of the department for such additional information is not authorized by law or rule, the department, at the applicant's request, shall proceed to process the permit application.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 120.60, an applicant for a permit under this part shall have 90 days from the date of a timely request for additional information to submit that information. If an applicant requires more than 90 days in which to respond to a request for additional information, the applicant may notify the agency processing the permit application in writing of the circumstances, at which time the application shall be held in active status for no more than one additional period of up to 90 days. Additional extensions may be granted for good cause shown by the applicant. A showing that the applicant is making a diligent effort to obtain the requested additional information shall constitute good cause. Failure of an applicant to provide the timely requested information by the applicable deadline shall result in denial of the application without prejudice.

Section 6. Section 166.033, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.033 Development permits.—When a municipality denies an application for a development permit, the municipality shall give written notice to the applicant. The notice must include a citation to the applicable portions of an ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal authority for the denial of the permit. As used in this section, the term "development permit" has the same meaning as in s. 163.3164. No municipality may require as a

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condition of approval for a development permit that an applicant obtain a permit or approval from any other state or federal agency. Issuance of a development permit by a municipality does not in any way create any rights on the part of an applicant to obtain a permit from another state or federal agency and does not create any liability on the part of the municipality for issuance of the permit in the event that an applicant fails to fulfill its legal obligations to obtain requisite approvals or fulfill the obligations imposed by other state or federal agencies. Municipalities may attach this disclaimer to the issuance of development permits and may include a permit condition that all other applicable state or federal permits must be obtained prior to development. This shall not be construed to prohibit a municipality from providing information to an applicant regarding what other state or federal permits may be applicable.

Section 7. Subsection (14) is added to section 253.034, Florida Statutes, to read:

253.034 State-owned lands; uses.-

(14) Deposition of dredged material on state-owned submerged lands for the purpose of restoring previously dredged holes to natural conditions shall be conducted in such a manner as to maximize environmental benefits. In such cases, the dredged material shall be placed in the dredge hole at an elevation consistent with the surrounding area to allow light penetration so as to maximize propagation of native vegetation. When available dredged material is of insufficient quantity to raise the entire dredge hole to prior natural elevations, then placement shall be limited to a portion of the dredge hole where

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elevations can be restored to natural elevations.

Section 8. Subsection (10) of section 373.026, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

373.026 General powers and duties of the department.-The department, or its successor agency, shall be responsible for the administration of this chapter at the state level. However, it is the policy of the state that, to the greatest extent possible, the department may enter into interagency or interlocal agreements with any other state agency, any water management district, or any local government conducting programs related to or materially affecting the water resources of the state. All such agreements shall be subject to the provisions of s. 373.046. In addition to its other powers and duties, the department shall, to the greatest extent possible:

(10) Expand the use of Internet based self certification services for appropriate exemptions and general permits issued by the department and water management districts. In addition to expanding the use of Internet based self certification services for appropriate exemptions and general permits, the department and water management districts shall identify and develop general permits for activities currently requiring individual review that could be expedited through the use of professional certifications.

Section 9. Subsection (4) is added to section 373.441, Florida Statutes, created to read:

373.441 Role of counties, municipalities, and local pollution control programs in permit processing.-

(4) Activities subject to a permit issued under authority delegated to a county, municipality, or local pollution control

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program by the department or the appropriate water management district may not be regulated by the department or the district unless such regulation is required pursuant to the delegation agreement.

Section 10. Subsection (2) of Section 373.4141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.4141 Permits; processing.-

(2) A permit shall be approved or denied within 90 days after receipt of the original application, the last item of timely requested additional material, or the applicant's written request to begin processing the permit application. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 120.60, an applicant for a permit under this part shall have 90 days from the date of a timely request for additional information to submit that information. If an applicant requires more than 90 days in which to respond to a request for additional information, the applicant may notify the agency processing the permit application in writing of the circumstances, at which time the application shall be held in active status for no more than one additional period of up to 90 days. Additional extensions may be granted for good cause shown by the applicant. A showing that the applicant is making a diligent effort to obtain the requested additional information shall constitute good cause. Failure of an applicant to provide the timely requested information by the applicable deadline shall result in denial of the application without prejudice.

Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 373.079, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office; staff.-

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(4)(a) The governing board of the district is authorized to employ an executive director, ombudsman, and such engineers, other professional persons, and other personnel and assistants as it deems necessary and under such terms and conditions as it may determine and to terminate such employment. The appointment of an executive director by the governing board is subject to approval by the Governor and must be initially confirmed by the Florida Senate. The governing board may delegate all or part of its authority under this paragraph to the executive director. However, the governing board shall delegate all of its authority to take final action on permit applications under part II or part IV, or petitions for variances or waivers of permitting requirements under part II or part IV, except as provided for under ss. 373.083(5) and 373.118(4). This delegation shall not be subject to the rulemaking requirements of chapter 120. The executive director must be confirmed by the Senate upon employment and must be confirmed or reconfirmed by the Senate during the second regular session of the Legislature following a gubernatorial election.

Section 12. Subsection (5) of section 373.083, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.083 General powers and duties of the governing board.-In addition to other powers and duties allowed it by law, the governing board is authorized to:

(5) Execute any of the powers, duties, and functions vested in the governing board through a member or members thereof, the executive director, or other district staff as designated by the governing board. The governing board may establish the scope and terms of any delegation. However, if The governing board shall

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delegates to the executive director the authority to take final action on permit applications under part II or part IV, or petitions for variances or waivers of permitting requirements under part II or part IV, and this delegation shall not be subject to the rulemaking requirements of chapter 120. However, the governing board shall provide a process for referring any denial of such application or petition to the governing board to take final action. Such process shall expressly prohibit any member of a governing board from intervening in the review of an application prior to said application being referred to the governing board to final action. The authority in this subsection is supplemental to any other provision of this chapter granting authority to the governing board to delegate specific powers, duties, or functions.

Section 13. Subsection (4) of section 373.118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.118 General permits; delegation.

(4) To provide for greater efficiency, the governing board may shall delegate by rule its powers and duties pertaining to general permits to the executive director and this delegation shall not be subject to the rulemaking requirements of chapter 120. The executive director may execute such delegated authority through designated staff. However, when delegating the authority to take final action on permit applications under part II or part IV or petitions for variances or waivers of permitting requirements under part II or part IV, the governing board shall provide a process for referring any denial of such application or petition to the governing board to take such final action.

Section 14. Subsection (6) is added to section 373.236,



Florida Statutes, to read:

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373.236 Duration of permits; compliance reports.-

(6) (a) The need for alternative water supply development projects to meet anticipated public water supply demands of the state is such that it is essential to encourage participation in and contribution to such projects by private rural landowners who characteristically have relatively modest near-term water demands but substantially increasing demands after the 20-year planning horizon provided in s. 373.0361. Where such landowners make extraordinary contributions of lands or construction funding to enable the expeditious implementation of such projects, water management districts and the department are authorized to grant permits for such projects for a period of up to 50 years to municipalities, counties, special districts, regional water supply authorities, multijurisdictional water supply entities, and publicly owned or privately owned utilities created for or by the private landowners on or before April 1, 2009, which entities have entered into an agreement with the private landowner, for the purposes of more efficiently pursuing alternative public water supply development projects identified in a district's regional water supply plan and meeting water demands of both the applicant and the landowner.

(b) Any permit pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be granted only for that period of time for which there is sufficient data to provide reasonable assurance that the conditions for permit issuance will be met. Such a permit shall require a compliance report by the permittee every 5 years during the term of the permit. The report shall contain sufficient data to maintain reasonable assurance that the conditions for permit issuance,



applicable at the time of district review of the compliance report, are met. Following review of the report, the governing board or the department may modify the permit to ensure that the use meets the conditions for issuance.

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This subsection shall not be construed to limit the authority of the department or a water management district governing board to modify or revoke a consumptive use permit.

Section 15. Subsection (12) is added to section 373.406, Florida Statutes, to read:

373.406 Exemptions.—The following exemptions shall apply:

(12) (a) Construction of public use facilities in accordance with Florida Communities Trust grant-approved projects on county-owned natural lands. Such facilities may include a parking lot, including an access road, not to exceed a total size of 0.7 acres that is located entirely in uplands; at-grade access trails located entirely in uplands; pile supported boardwalks having a maximum width of six feet (with exceptions for ADA compliance); and pile-supported observation platforms each of which shall not to exceed 120 square feet in size.

(b) No fill shall be placed in, on, or over wetlands or other surface waters except pilings for boardwalks and observation platforms all of which structures located in, on, or over wetlands and other surface waters shall be sited, constructed, and elevated to minimize adverse impacts to native vegetation and shall be limited to an over water surface area not to exceed 0.5 acres. All stormwater flow from roads, parking areas, and trails shall sheet flow into uplands, and the use of pervious pavement is encouraged.

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Section 16. Section 373.4061, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

373.4061 Noticed General Permit to Counties for Environmental Restoration Activities. -

- (1) A general permit is hereby granted to counties to construct, operate, alter, maintain or remove systems for the purposes of environmental restoration or water quality improvements, subject to the limitations and conditions of this section.
- (2) The following restoration activities are authorized by this general permit:
- (a) Backfilling of existing agricultural or drainage ditches for the sole purpose of restoring a more natural hydroperiod to publicly owned lands, provided that adjacent properties are not adversely affected;
- (b) Placement of riprap within fifteen feet waterward of the mean or ordinary high water line for the purpose of preventing or abating erosion of a predominantly natural shoreline, provided that mangrove, seagrass, coral, sponge, and other protected marine communities are not adversely affected;
- (c) Placement of riprap within ten feet waterward of an existing seawall or bulkhead and backfilling of the area between the riprap and seawall or bulkhead with clean fill for the sole purpose of planting mangroves and Spartina sp., provided that seagrass, coral, sponge, and other protected marine communities are not adversely affected;
- (d) Scrape down of spoil islands to an intertidal elevation or a lower elevation at which light penetration is expected to allow for seagrass recruitment;

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- (e) Backfilling of existing dredge holes that are at least five feet deeper than surrounding natural grades to an intertidal elevation if doing so provides a regional net environmental benefit or, at a minimum, to an elevation at which light penetration is expected to allow for seagrass recruitment, with no more than minimum displacement of highly organic sediments; and
- (f) Placement of rock riprap or clean concrete in existing dredge holes that are at least five feet deeper than surrounding natural grades, provided that placed rock or concrete does not protrude above surrounding natural grades.
- (3) In order to qualify for this general permit, the activity must comply with the following:
- (a) The project must be included in a management plan that has been the subject of at least one public workshop;
- (b) The county commission must conduct at least one public hearing within one year of project initiation;
- (c) No activity under this part may be considered as mitigation for any other project;
- (d) Activities in tidal waters are limited to those waterbodies given priority restoration status pursuant to s. 373.453(1)(c); and
- (e) Prior to submittal of a notice to use this general permit, the county shall conduct at least one pre-application meeting with appropriate district or department staff to discuss project designs, implementation details, resource concerns, and conditions for meeting applicable state water quality standards.
- (4) This general permit shall be subject to the following specific conditions:

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- (a) A project under this general permit shall not significantly impede navigation or unreasonably infringe upon the riparian rights of others. When a court of competent jurisdiction determines that riparian rights have been unlawfully affected, the structure or activity shall be modified in accordance with the court's decision;
- (b) All erodible surfaces, including intertidal slopes shall be revegetated with appropriate native plantings within 72 hours of completion of construction;
- (c) Riprap material shall be clean limestone, granite or other native rock one foot to three feet in diameter;
- (d) Fill material used to backfill dredge holes or seawall planter areas shall be local, native material legally removed from nearby submerged lands or shall be material brought to the site, either of which shall comply with the standard of not more than 10% of the material passing through a #200 standard sieve and containing no more than 10% organic content, and is free of contaminants that will cause violations of state water quality standards;
- (e) Turbidity shall be monitored and controlled at all times such that turbidity immediately outside the project area complies with Rules 62-302 and 62-4.242, F.A.C.;
- (f) Equipment, barges, and staging areas shall not be stored or operated over seagrass, coral, sponge, or other protected marine communities;
- (q) Structures shall be maintained in a functional condition and shall be repaired or removed if they become dilapidated to such an extent that they are no longer functional. This shall not be construed to prohibit the repair

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or replacement subject to the provisions of Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C. within one year, of a structure being damaged in a discrete event such as a storm, flood, accident, or fire;

- (h) All work under this general permit shall be conducted in conformance with the general conditions of Rule 62-341.215, Florida Administrative Code;
- (i) Construction, use, or operation of the structure or activity shall not adversely affect any species which is endangered, threatened or of special concern, as listed in Rules 68A-27.003, 68A-27.004 and 68A-27.005, Florida Administrative Code; and
- (j) The activity may not adversely impact vessels or structures of archaeological or historical value relating to the history, government and culture of the state that are defined as historic properties in s.267.021(3).
- (5) The district or department, as applicable, shall provide written notification as to whether the proposed activity qualifies for the general permit within 30 days of receipt of written notice of a county's intent to use the general permit. If the district or department notifies the county that the system does not qualify for a noticed general permit due to an error or omission in the original notice to the district or the department, the county shall have 30 days from the date of the notification to amend the notice to use the general permit and submit such additional information to correct such error or omission.
- (6) This general permit constitutes a letter of consent by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund under chapters 253 and 258, where applicable, and chapters 18-18, 18-

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20, and 18-21, Florida Administrative Code, where applicable, for the county to enter upon and use state-owned submerged lands to the extent necessary to complete the activities. No activities conducted under this general permit shall divest the state of Florida from the continued ownership of lands that were state-owned, sovereign submerged lands prior to any use, construction, or implementation of this general permit.

Section 17. Subsection (29) of section 403.061, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsection (40) of that section is redesignated as subsection (43), and new subsections (40), (41) and (42) are added to that section to read:

403.061 Department; powers and duties. The department shall have the power and the duty to control and prohibit pollution of air and water in accordance with the law and rules adopted and promulgated by it and, for this purpose, to:

- (29) Adopt by rule special criteria to protect Class II shellfish harvesting waters. Rules previously adopted by the department in rule 17-4.28(8)(a), Florida Administrative Code, are hereby ratified and determined to be a valid exercise of delegated legislative authority and shall remain in effect unless amended by the Environmental Regulation Commission. Such rules may include special criteria for approval of docking facilities with 10 or fewer slips where construction and operation of such facilities will not result in the closure of shellfish waters.
- (40) Maintain a list of projects or activities, including mitigation banks, that applicants may consider when developing proposals to meet the mitigation or public interest requirements of chapter 253, chapter 373, or this chapter. The contents of

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such a list are not a rule as defined in chapter 120, and listing a specific project or activity does not imply approval by the department for such project or activity. Each county government is encouraged to develop an inventory of projects or activities for inclusion on the list by obtaining input from local stakeholder groups in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, including local governments, port authorities, marine contractors, other representatives of the marine construction industry, environmental or conservation organizations, and other interested parties. Counties may establish dedicated funds for depositing public interest donations into a reserve for future public interest projects, including improvements to on water law enforcement.

(41) Develop a project management plan to implement an epermitting program that allows for timely submittal and exchange of permit application and compliance information that yields positive benefits in support of the department's mission, permit applicants, permit holders, and the public. The plan shall include an implementation timetable, estimated costs, and transaction fees. The department shall submit the plan to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations by January 15, 2010.

(42) Expand the use of Internet based self certification services for appropriate exemptions and general permits issued by the department. Notwithstanding any other provision of law a local government is prohibited from specifying the method or form of documentation that a project meets the provisions for authorization under chapters 161, 253, 373, or 403. This shall



include Internet based programs of the department or water management district that provide for self certification.

(43) (40) Serve as the state's single point of contact for performing the responsibilities described in Presidential Executive Order 12372, including administration and operation of the Florida State Clearinghouse. The Florida State Clearinghouse shall be responsible for coordinating interagency reviews of the following: federal activities and actions subject to the federal consistency requirements of s. 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act; documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 4321 et seq., and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. ss. 1331 et seq.; applications for federal funding pursuant to s. 216.212; and other notices and information regarding federal activities in the state, as appropriate. The Florida State Clearinghouse shall ensure that state agency comments and recommendations on the environmental, social, and economic impact of proposed federal actions are communicated to federal agencies, applicants, local governments, and interested parties.

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The department shall implement such programs in conjunction with its other powers and duties and shall place special emphasis on reducing and eliminating contamination that presents a threat to humans, animals or plants, or to the environment.

Section 19. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 403.813, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

403.813 Permits issued at district centers; exceptions.-

(1) A permit is not required under this chapter, chapter 373, chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, or chapter 25214 or

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chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, for activities associated with the following types of projects; however, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, nothing in this subsection does not relieve relieves an applicant from any requirement to obtain permission to use or occupy lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or any water management district in its governmental or proprietary capacity or from complying with applicable local pollution control programs authorized under this chapter or other requirements of county and municipal governments:

- (a) The installation of overhead transmission lines, with support structures which are not constructed in waters of the state and which do not create a navigational hazard.
- (b) The installation and repair of mooring pilings and dolphins associated with private docking facilities or piers and the installation of private docks, piers and recreational docking facilities, or piers and recreational docking facilities of local governmental entities when the local governmental entity's activities will not take place in any manatee habitat, any of which docks:
- 1. Has 500 square feet or less of over-water surface area for a dock which is located in an area designated as Outstanding Florida Waters or 1,000 square feet or less of over-water surface area for a dock which is located in an area which is not designated as Outstanding Florida Waters;
- 2. Is constructed on or held in place by pilings or is a floating dock which is constructed so as not to involve filling or dredging other than that necessary to install the pilings;
  - 3. Shall not substantially impede the flow of water or



create a navigational hazard;

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- 4. Is used for recreational, noncommercial activities associated with the mooring or storage of boats and boat paraphernalia; and
- 5. Is the sole dock constructed pursuant to this exemption as measured along the shoreline for a distance of 65 feet, unless the parcel of land or individual lot as platted is less than 65 feet in length along the shoreline, in which case there may be one exempt dock allowed per parcel or lot.

Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the department from taking appropriate enforcement action pursuant to this chapter to abate or prohibit any activity otherwise exempt from permitting pursuant to this paragraph if the department can demonstrate that the exempted activity has caused water pollution in violation of this chapter.

- (c) The installation and maintenance to design specifications of boat ramps on artificial bodies of water where navigational access to the proposed ramp exists or the installation of boat ramps open to the public in any waters of the state where navigational access to the proposed ramp exists and where the construction of the proposed ramp will be less than 30 feet wide and will involve the removal of less than 25 cubic yards of material from the waters of the state, and the maintenance to design specifications of such ramps; however, the material to be removed shall be placed upon a self-contained upland site so as to prevent the escape of the spoil material into the waters of the state.
  - (d) The replacement or repair of existing docks and piers,

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except that no fill material is to be used and provided that the replacement or repaired dock or pier is in the same location and of the same configuration and dimensions as the dock or pier being replaced or repaired. This shall not preclude the use of different construction materials or minor deviations to allow upgrades to current structural and design standards.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$  are superseded by general permits established pursuant to ss. 373.118 and 403.814 which include the same activities. Until such time as general permits are established, or if <del>should</del> general permits are <del>be</del> suspended or repealed, the exemptions under subsection  $(1)\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ shall remain or shall be reestablished in full force and effect.

Section 20. Subsection (12) of section 403.814, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

403.814 General permits; delegation.

(12) The department shall expand the use of Internet based self certification services for appropriate exemptions and general permits issued by the department and water management districts. In addition, the department shall identify and develop general permits for activities currently requiring individual review that could be expedited through the use of professional certifications. The department shall submit a report on progress of these efforts to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2010.

Section 21. Section 403.973, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403.973 Expedited permitting; comprehensive plan amendments.-

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- (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage and facilitate the location and expansion of those types of economic development projects which offer job creation and high wages, strengthen and diversify the state's economy, and have been thoughtfully planned to take into consideration the protection of the state's environment. It is also the intent of the Legislature to provide for an expedited permitting and comprehensive plan amendment process for such projects.
  - (2) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Duly noticed" means publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or county with jurisdiction. The notice shall appear on at least 2 separate days, one of which shall be at least 7 days before the meeting. The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting scheduled to discuss or enact the memorandum of agreement, and the places within the municipality or county where such proposed memorandum of agreement may be inspected by the public. The notice must be one-eighth of a page in size and must be published in a portion of the paper other than the legal notices section. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the memorandum of agreement.
- (b) "Jobs" means permanent, full-time equivalent positions not including construction jobs.
- (c) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
- (c) (d) "Permit applications" means state permits and licenses, and at the option of a participating local government, local development permits or orders.

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- (d) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Environmental Protection, or his or her designee.
- (3) (a) The <u>Sec</u>retary <del>Governor, through the office, shall</del> direct the creation of regional permit action teams, for the purpose of expediting review of permit applications and local comprehensive plan amendments submitted by:
  - 1. Businesses creating at least 50 <del>100 jobs, or</del>
- 2. Businesses creating at least 25 <del>50</del> jobs if the project is located in an enterprise zone, or in a county having a population of less than 75,000 or in a county having a population of less than 100,000 which is contiguous to a county having a population of less than 75,000, as determined by the most recent decennial census, residing in incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county, or
- (b) On a case-by-case basis and at the request of a county or municipal government, the Secretary office may certify as eligible for expedited review a project not meeting the minimum job creation thresholds but creating a minimum of 10 jobs. The recommendation from the governing body of the county or municipality in which the project may be located is required in order for the Secretary office to certify that any project is eligible for expedited review under this paragraph. When considering projects that do not meet the minimum job creation thresholds but that are recommended by the governing body in which the project may be located, the Secretary office shall consider economic impact factors that include, but are not limited to:
- 1. The proposed wage and skill levels relative to those existing in the area in which the project may be located;

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- 2. The project's potential to diversify and strengthen the area's economy;
  - 3. The amount of capital investment; and
- 4. The number of jobs that will be made available for persons served by the welfare transition program.
- (c) At the request of a county or municipal government, the Secretary office or a Quick Permitting County may certify projects located in counties where the ratio of new jobs per participant in the welfare transition program, as determined by Workforce Florida, Inc., is less than one or otherwise critical, as eligible for the expedited permitting process. Such projects must meet the numerical job creation criteria of this subsection, but the jobs created by the project do not have to be high-wage jobs that diversify the state's economy.
- (d) Projects located in a designated brownfield area are eligible for the expedited permitting process.
- (e) Projects that are part of the state-of-the-art biomedical research institution and campus to be established in this state by the grantee under s. 288.955 are eligible for the expedited permitting process, if the projects are designated as part of the institution or campus by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the institution and campus are established.
- (f) Projects resulting in the cultivation of biofuel feedstock on lands 1,000 acres or larger or the construction of a biofuel or biodiesel processing facility or renewable energy generating facility as defined in s. 366.91(2)(d) are eligible for the expedited permitting process.
  - (4) The regional teams shall be established through the

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execution of memoranda of agreement developed by the applicant and between the Secretary office and with input solicited from the respective heads of the <del>Department of Environmental</del> Protection, the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Transportation and its district offices, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, appropriate regional planning councils, appropriate water management districts, and voluntarily participating municipalities and counties. The memoranda of agreement should also accommodate participation in this expedited process by other local governments and federal agencies as circumstances warrant.

- (5) In order to facilitate local government's option to participate in this expedited review process, the Secretary office shall, in cooperation with local governments and participating state agencies, create a standard form memorandum of agreement. A local government shall hold a duly noticed public workshop to review and explain to the public the expedited permitting process and the terms and conditions of the standard form memorandum of agreement.
- (6) The local government shall hold a duly noticed public hearing to execute a memorandum of agreement for each qualified project. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and at the option of the local government, the workshop provided for in subsection (5) may be conducted on the same date as the public hearing held under this subsection. The memorandum of agreement that a local government signs shall include a provision identifying necessary local government procedures and time limits that will be modified to allow for the local government

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decision on the project within 90 days. The memorandum of agreement applies to projects, on a case-by-case basis, that qualify for special review and approval as specified in this section. The memorandum of agreement must make it clear that this expedited permitting and review process does not modify, qualify, or otherwise alter existing local government nonprocedural standards for permit applications, unless expressly authorized by law.

- (7) At the option of the participating local government, Appeals of local government its final approvals for a project shall-may-be pursuant to the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574, pursuant to subsection (14), and be consolidated with the challenge of applicable state agency actions, if any-or pursuant to other appellate processes available to the local government. The local government's decision to enter into a summary hearing must be made as provided in s. 120.574 memorandum of agreement.
- (8) Each memorandum of agreement shall include a process for final agency action on permit applications and local comprehensive plan amendment approvals within 90 days after receipt of a completed application, unless the applicant agrees to a longer time period or the Secretary office determines that unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances preclude final agency action within the 90-day timeframe. Permit applications governed by federally delegated or approved permitting programs whose requirements would prohibit or be inconsistent with the 90-day timeframe are exempt from this provision, but must be processed by the agency with federally delegated or approved program responsibility as expeditiously as possible.

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- (9) The Secretary office—shall inform the Legislature by October 1 of each year to which agencies have not entered into or implemented an agreement and identify any barriers to achieving success of the program.
- (10) The memoranda of agreement may provide for the waiver or modification of procedural rules prescribing forms, fees, procedures, or time limits for the review or processing of permit applications under the jurisdiction of those agencies that are party to the memoranda of agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a memorandum of agreement must to the extent feasible provide for proceedings and hearings otherwise held separately by the parties to the memorandum of agreement to be combined into one proceeding or held jointly and at one location. Such waivers or modifications shall not be available for permit applications governed by federally delegated or approved permitting programs, the requirements of which would prohibit, or be inconsistent with, such a waiver or modification.
- (11) The standard form memoranda of agreement shall include guidelines to be used in working with state, regional, and local permitting authorities. Guidelines may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (a) A central contact point for filing permit applications and local comprehensive plan amendments and for obtaining information on permit and local comprehensive plan amendment requirements;
- (b) Identification of the individual or individuals within each respective agency who will be responsible for processing the expedited permit application or local comprehensive plan



amendment for that agency;

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- (c) A mandatory preapplication review process to reduce permitting conflicts by providing guidance to applicants regarding the permits needed from each agency and governmental entity, site planning and development, site suitability and limitations, facility design, and steps the applicant can take to ensure expeditious permit application and local comprehensive plan amendment review. As a part of this process, the first interagency meeting to discuss a project shall be held within 14 days after the Secretary's office's determination that the project is eligible for expedited review. Subsequent interagency meetings may be scheduled to accommodate the needs of participating local governments that are unable to meet public notice requirements for executing a memorandum of agreement within this timeframe. This accommodation may not exceed 45 days from the office's determination that the project is eligible for expedited review;
- (d) The preparation of a single coordinated project description form and checklist and an agreement by state and regional agencies to reduce the burden on an applicant to provide duplicate information to multiple agencies;
- (e) Establishment of a process for the adoption and review of any comprehensive plan amendment needed by any certified project within 90 days after the submission of an application for a comprehensive plan amendment. However, the memorandum of agreement may not prevent affected persons as defined in s. 163.3184 from appealing or participating in this expedited plan amendment process and any review or appeals of decisions made under this paragraph; and

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- (f) Additional incentives for an applicant who proposes a project that provides a net ecosystem benefit.
- (12) The applicant, the regional permit action team, and participating local governments may agree to incorporate into a single document the permits, licenses, and approvals that are obtained through the expedited permit process. This consolidated permit is subject to the summary hearing provisions set forth in subsection (14).
  - (13) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law:
- (a) Local comprehensive plan amendments for projects qualified under this section are exempt from the twice-a-year limits provision in s. 163.3187; and
- (b) Projects qualified under this section are not subject to interstate highway level-of-service standards adopted by the Department of Transportation for concurrency purposes. The memorandum of agreement specified in subsection (5) must include a process by which the applicant will be assessed a fair share of the cost of mitigating the project's significant traffic impacts, as defined in chapter 380 and related rules. The agreement must also specify whether the significant traffic impacts on the interstate system will be mitigated through the implementation of a project or payment of funds to the Department of Transportation. Where funds are paid, the Department of Transportation must include in the 5-year work program transportation projects or project phases, in an amount equal to the funds received, to mitigate the traffic impacts associated with the proposed project.
- (14) (a) Challenges to state agency action in the expedited permitting process for projects processed under this section are

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subject to the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574, except that the administrative law judge's decision, as provided in s. 120.574(2)(f), shall be in the form of a recommended order and shall not constitute the final action of the state agency. In those proceedings where the action of only one agency of the state is challenged, the agency of the state shall issue the final order within 45  $\frac{10}{10}$  working days of receipt of the administrative law judge's recommended order. The recommended order shall inform the parties of the right to file exceptions to the recommended order and to file responses thereto in accordance with the Uniform Rules. In those proceedings where the actions of more than one agency of the state are challenged, the Governor shall issue the final order, except for the issuance of department licenses required under any federally delegated or approved permit program for which the department shall enter the final order, within 45 10 working days of receipt of the administrative law judge's recommended order. The recommended order shall inform the parties of the right to file exceptions to the recommended order and to file responses thereto in accordance with the Uniform Rules. The participating agencies of the state may opt at the preliminary hearing conference to allow the administrative law judge's decision to constitute the final agency action. If a participating local government agrees to participate in the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574 for purposes of review of local government comprehensive plan amendments, s. 163.3184(9) and (10) apply.

(b) Challenges to state agency action in the expedited permitting process for establishment of a state-of-the-art

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biomedical research institution and campus in this state by the grantee under s. 288.955 or projects identified in paragraph (3) (f) are subject to the same requirements as challenges brought under paragraph (a), except that, notwithstanding s. 120.574, summary proceedings must be conducted within 30 days after a party files the motion for summary hearing, regardless of whether the parties agree to the summary proceeding.

- (15) The Secretary office, working with the agencies providing cooperative assistance and input to participating in the memoranda of agreement, shall review sites proposed for the location of facilities eligible for the Innovation Incentive Program under s. 288.1089. Within 20 days after the request for the review by the Secretary office, the agencies shall provide to the office a statement as to each site's necessary permits under local, state, and federal law and an identification of significant permitting issues, which if unresolved, may result in the denial of an agency permit or approval or any significant delay caused by the permitting process.
- (16) This expedited permitting process shall not modify, qualify, or otherwise alter existing agency nonprocedural standards for permit applications or local comprehensive plan amendments, unless expressly authorized by law. If it is determined that the applicant is not eligible to use this process, the applicant may apply for permitting of the project through the normal permitting processes.
- (17) The Secretary office shall be responsible for certifying a business as eligible for undergoing expedited review under this section. Enterprise Florida, Inc., a county or municipal government, or the Rural Economic Development

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Initiative may recommend to the Secretary Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development that a project meeting the minimum job creation threshold undergo expedited review.

- (18) The Secretary office, working with the Rural Economic Development Initiative and the agencies participating in the memoranda of agreement, shall provide technical assistance in preparing permit applications and local comprehensive plan amendments for counties having a population of less than 75,000 residents, or counties having fewer than 100,000 residents which are contiguous to counties having fewer than 75,000 residents. Additional assistance may include, but not be limited to, guidance in land development regulations and permitting processes, working cooperatively with state, regional, and local entities to identify areas within these counties which may be suitable or adaptable for preclearance review of specified types of land uses and other activities requiring permits.
- (19) The following projects are ineligible for review under this part:
- (a) A project funded and operated by a local government, as defined in s. 377.709, and located within that government's jurisdiction.
  - (b) A project, the primary purpose of which is to:
- 1. Effect the final disposal of solid waste, biomedical waste, or hazardous waste in this state.
- 2. Produce electrical power, unless the production of electricity is incidental and not the primary function of the project or the electrical power is derived from a renewable fuel source as defined by s. 366.91(2)(d).
  - 3. Extract natural resources.



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5. Construct, maintain, or operate an oil, petroleum, natural gas, or sewage pipeline.

Section 22. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 258.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

258.42 Maintenance of preserves. - The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund shall maintain such aquatic preserves subject to the following provisions:

- (3) (e) There shall be no erection of structures within the preserve, except:
- 1. Private residential docks may be approved for reasonable ingress or egress of riparian owners. Slips located at private residential single-family docks that contain boat lifts or davits which do not float in the water when loaded may be roofed but may not be, in whole or in part, enclosed with walls, provided that the roof shall not overhang more than 1-foot beyond the footprint of the boat lift. Such roofs may not be considered to be part of the square footage calculations of the terminal platform.
- 2. Private residential multislip docks may be approved if located within a reasonable distance of a publicly maintained navigation channel, or a natural channel of adequate depth and width to allow operation of the watercraft for which the docking facility is designed without the craft having an adverse impact on marine resources. The distance shall be determined in accordance with criteria established by the trustees by rule, based on a consideration of the depth of the water, nature and condition of bottom, and presence of manatees.
  - 3. Commercial docking facilities shown to be consistent



with the use or management criteria of the preserve may be approved if the facilities are located within a reasonable distance of a publicly maintained navigation channel, or a natural channel of adequate depth and width to allow operation of the watercraft for which the docking facility is designed without the craft having an adverse impact on marine resources. The distance shall be determined in accordance with criteria established by the trustees by rule, based on a consideration of the depth of the water, nature and condition of bottom, and presence of manatees.

4. Structures for shore protection, including restoration of seawalls at their previous location or upland of or within 18 inches waterward of their previous location, approved navigational aids, or public utility crossings authorized under paragraph (a) may be approved.

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No structure under this paragraph or chapter 253 shall be prohibited solely because the local government fails to adopt a marina plan or other policies dealing with the siting of such structures in its local comprehensive plan.

Section 23. Section 379.1051, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

379.1051 Regulation by local governments.—This provision is intended to eliminate conflicts between the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and state agencies or local governments relating to the regulation of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life. The Legislature recognizes that s. 9. Art. IV of the State Constitution gives the commission the exclusive regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to

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wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life. A state agency or unit of local government may not impose any requirement that creates additional restrictions or limitations on activities conforming with commission rules, management plans, guidelines, permits or other authorizations. Nothing in this section shall affect a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a state agency or other unit of government, or limit the authority of local government as otherwise provided by law.

Section 24. This act shall take effect upon becoming law and shall apply retroactively where expressly provided.

========== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =============== And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to regulatory reform; providing for an extension and renewal of certain permits, development orders, or other land use approvals; providing for retroactive application of the extension and renewal; amending s. 120.569, F.S., providing for an electronic notice of hearing rights; amending s. 120.60, F.S., relating to additional information for license applications; providing for an agency to process a permit application under certain circumstances; amending s. 125.022, F.S.; providing that counties may not require certain permits or approvals as a condition of approving a development permit; creating s. 161.032, F.S.; providing for review of

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applications; providing requirements for timely submittal of additional information requested; providing circumstances in which an application may be denied; amending s. 166.033, F.S.; providing that municipalities may not require certain permits or approvals as a condition of approving a development permit; amending s. 253.034, F.S.; providing for the deposition of dredged material on state-owned submerged lands in certain circumstances and for certain purposes; amending s. 373.026, F.S.; providing for the expansion of Internet based self-certification for exemptions and general permits; amending s. 373.441, F.S.; restricting the authority of the Department of Environmental Protection and the appropriate water management district to regulate certain activities delegated to a county, municipality, or local pollution control program; providing exceptions; amending s. 373.4141, F.S.; providing requirements for requests for additional information; amending s. 373.079, F.S.; requiring the water management district governing boards to delegate certain permitting responsibilities to the district executive directors; amending s. 373.083, F.S.; requiring the delegation of certain authority by the governing board to the executive director of the water management district; providing an exception to requirements of chapter 120; providing a prohibition; amending s. 373.118, F.S.; providing for the delegation of general permit authority by a water

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management district governing board to the district executive director; providing an exception to the requirements of chapter 120; amending s. 373.236, F.S.; providing for 50-year consumptive use permits in certain circumstances; providing requirements for issuance of a permit; amending s. 373.406, F.S.; providing a permit exemption for certain public use facilities on county-owned natural areas; creating s. 373.4061, F.S.; providing requirements for noticed general permits for counties; providing requirements, restrictions, and limitations; amending s. 403.061, F.S.; amending the powers and duties of the Department of Environmental Protection; providing that department rules may include criteria for approval of certain dock facilities; authorizing the department of maintain certain lists of projects or activities that meet specified mitigation or public interest requirements; providing an exception; providing restrictions; requiring the department of implement a project management plan to implement e-permitting; providing project requirements; requiring the department to submit the plan to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2010; authorizing the department to expand the use of Internet-based self certification services for appropriate exemptions and general permits; providing restrictions on local governments relating to method or form of documentation; amending s. 403.813, F.S.; relating to permits issued at

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district centers; providing exceptions; amending s. 403.814, F.S.; directing the Department of Environmental Protection to expand the use of Internet-based self-certification services for exemptions and general permits; requiring the submission of a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; amending s. 403.973, F.S.; relating to expedited permitting and comprehensive plan amendments; specifying that certain biofuel projects are eligible for expedited permitting; transferring certain responsibilities from the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development in the Executive Office of the Governor to the Secretary of Environmental Protection; revising the time by which certain final orders must be issued; providing additional requirements for recommended orders; amending s. 258.42, F.S.; authorizing the placement of roofs on certain slips and private residential single-family docks; providing that such roofs may not be included in the calculation to determine the square footage of the terminal platform; creating s. 379.1051, F.S.; clarifying the authority of local governments and state agencies to impose regulations on the taking of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life; providing an effective date.