1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to environmental control; amending ss. 3 220.1845 and 376.30781, F.S.; providing requirements for 4 claiming certain site rehabilitation costs in applications 5 for contaminated site rehabilitation tax credits; 6 conforming cross-references; amending s. 376.85, F.S.; 7 revising requirements for the Department of Environmental 8 Protection's annual report to the Legislature regarding 9 site rehabilitation; amending s. 403.973, F.S.; 10 transferring certain authority over the expedited 11 permitting and comprehensive plan amendment process from the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to 12 the Secretary of Environmental Protection; revising job-13 14 creation criteria for businesses to qualify to submit 15 permit applications and local comprehensive plan 16 amendments for expedited review; providing that permit 17 applications and local comprehensive plan amendments for specified renewable energy projects are eligible for the 18 19 expedited permitting process; providing for the establishment of regional permit action teams through the 20 21 execution of memoranda of agreement developed by permit 22 applicants and the secretary; revising provisions relating 23 to the memoranda of agreement developed by the secretary; 24 providing for the appeal of local government comprehensive 25 plan approvals for projects and requiring such appeals to 26 be consolidated with challenges to state agency actions; 27 requiring recommended orders relating to challenges to 28 state agency actions pursuant to summary hearing

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provisions to include certain information; extending the deadline for issuance of final orders relating to such challenges; providing for challenges to state agency action related to expedited permitting for specified renewable energy projects; revising provisions relating to the review of sites proposed for the location of facilities eligible for the Innovation Incentive Program; revising criteria for counties eligible to receive technical assistance in preparing permit applications and local comprehensive plan amendments; specifying expedited review eligibility for certain electrical power projects; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 220.1845, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2), (3), and (4), respectively, and a new subsection (1) is added to that section to read:

220.1845 Contaminated site rehabilitation tax credit.—

(1) APPLICATION FOR TAX CREDIT.—A site rehabilitation application must be received by the Division of Waste Management of the Department of Environmental Protection by January 31 of the year after the calendar year for which site rehabilitation costs are being claimed in a tax credit application. All site rehabilitation costs claimed must have been for work conducted between January 1 and December 31 of the year for which the application is being submitted. All payment requests must have

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been received and all costs must have been paid prior to submittal of the tax credit application, but no later than January 31 of the year after the calendar year for which site rehabilitation costs are being claimed.

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Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5), paragraph (c) of subsection (6), and subsections (9) and (10) of section 376.30781, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

376.30781 Tax credits for rehabilitation of drycleaning-solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas; application process; rulemaking authority; revocation authority.—

To claim the credit for site rehabilitation or solid waste removal, each tax credit applicant must apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for an allocation of the \$2 million annual credit by filing a tax credit application with the Division of Waste Management on a form developed by the Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with the Department of Revenue. The form shall include an affidavit from each tax credit applicant certifying that all information contained in the application, including all records of costs incurred and claimed in the tax credit application, are true and correct. If the application is submitted pursuant to subparagraph (3)(a)2., the form must include an affidavit signed by the real property owner stating that it is not, and has never been, the owner or operator of the drycleaning facility where the contamination exists. Approval of tax credits must be accomplished on a first-come, first-served basis based upon the date and time complete applications are received by the Division

of Waste Management, subject to the limitations of subsection (14). To be eligible for a tax credit, the tax credit applicant must:

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- For site rehabilitation tax credits, have entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection for a drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site or a Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreement, as applicable, and have paid all deductibles pursuant to s. 376.3078(3)(e) for eligible drycleaning-solvent-cleanup program sites, as applicable. A site rehabilitation tax credit applicant must submit only a single completed application per site for each calendar year's site rehabilitation costs. A site rehabilitation application must be received by the Division of Waste Management of the Department of Environmental Protection by January 31 of the year after the calendar year for which site rehabilitation costs are being claimed in a tax credit application. All site rehabilitation costs claimed must have been for work conducted between January 1 and December 31 of the year for which the application is being submitted. All payment requests must have been received and all costs must have been paid prior to submittal of the tax credit application, but no later than January 31 of the year after the calendar year for which site rehabilitation costs are being claimed.
- (6) To obtain the tax credit certificate, the tax credit applicant must provide all pertinent information requested on the tax credit application form, including, at a minimum, the name and address of the tax credit applicant and the address and tracking identification number of the eligible site. Along with

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the tax credit application form, the tax credit applicant must submit the following:

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- (c) Proof that the documentation submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) has been reviewed and verified by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Specifically, a certified public accountant's report must be submitted and the certified public accountant must attest to the accuracy and validity of the costs claimed incurred and paid during the time period covered in the application by conducting an independent review of the data presented by the tax credit applicant. Accuracy and validity of costs incurred and paid shall be determined after the level of effort is certified by an appropriate professional registered in this state in each contributing technical discipline. The certified public accountant's report must also attest that the costs included in the application form are not duplicated within the application, that all payment requests were received and all costs were paid prior to submittal of the tax credit application, and, for site rehabilitation tax credits, that all costs claimed are for work conducted between January 1 and December 31 of the year for which the application is being submitted. A copy of the accountant's report shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection in addition to the accountant's certification form in the tax credit application; and
- (9) On or before May 1, the Department of Environmental Protection shall inform each tax credit applicant that is

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subject to the January 31 annual application deadline of the applicant's eligibility status and the amount of any tax credit due. The department shall provide each eligible tax credit applicant with a tax credit certificate that must be submitted with its tax return to the Department of Revenue to claim the tax credit or be transferred pursuant to s.220.1845(1)(g). The May 1 deadline for annual site rehabilitation tax credit certificate awards shall not apply to any tax credit application for which the department has issued a notice of deficiency pursuant to subsection (8). The department shall respond within 90 days after receiving a response from the tax credit applicant to such a notice of deficiency. Credits may not result in the payment of refunds if total credits exceed the amount of tax owed.

(10) For solid waste removal, new health care facility or health care provider, and affordable housing tax credit applications, the Department of Environmental Protection shall inform the applicant of the department's determination within 90 days after the application is deemed complete. Each eligible tax credit applicant shall be informed of the amount of its tax credit and provided with a tax credit certificate that must be submitted with its tax return to the Department of Revenue to claim the tax credit or be transferred pursuant to \underline{s} . $\underline{220.1845(2)(g)}$ \underline{s} . $\underline{220.1845(1)(g)}$. Credits may not result in the payment of refunds if total credits exceed the amount of tax owed.

Section 3. Section 376.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

Protection shall prepare and submit an annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by August 1 of each year a report that includes Legislature, beginning in December 1998, which shall include, but is not be limited to, the number, size, and locations of brownfield sites: that have been remediated under the provisions of this act, that are currently under rehabilitation pursuant to a negotiated site rehabilitation agreement with the department or a delegated local program, where alternative cleanup target levels have been established pursuant to s. 376.81(1)(g)3., and where engineering and institutional control strategies are being employed as conditions of a "no further action order" to maintain the protections provided in s. 376.81(1)(g)1. and 2.

Section 4. Section 403.973, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403.973 Expedited permitting; <u>amendments to</u> comprehensive <u>plans</u> <u>plan amendments.</u>

- (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:

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(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.
- (d) "Permit applications" means state permits and licenses, and at the option of a participating local government, local development permits or orders.
- (e) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Environmental Protection or his or her designee.
- (3) (a) The <u>secretary Governor</u>, through the office, shall 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 + 100 = 100 jobs; or
 - 2. Businesses creating at least 25 $\frac{50}{9}$ jobs if the project

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

is located in an enterprise zone, or in a county having a population of <u>fewer less</u> than 75,000 or in a county having a population of <u>fewer less</u> than <u>125,000</u> 100,000 which is contiguous to a county having a population of <u>fewer less</u> 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 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 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 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;
- 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 office or a Quick Permitting County may certify projects

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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 production of biofuels cultivated on lands that are 1,000 acres or more or in the construction of a biofuel or biodiesel processing facility or a facility generating renewable energy, as defined in s.

 366.91(2)(d), are eligible for the expedited permitting process.
- (4) The regional teams shall be established through the execution of memoranda of agreement <u>developed by the applicant</u> and the secretary, with input solicited from between the office and the respective heads of the Department of Environmental 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

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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 <u>secretary</u> 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 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.

- Appeals of <u>local government comprehensive plan approvals</u> its final approval for a project <u>shall may</u> be pursuant to the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574, pursuant to subsection (14), and consolidated with the challenge of any applicable state agency actions 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 or in the 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.
- (9) The <u>secretary</u> office shall inform the Legislature by October 1 of each year 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 <u>standard form for</u> 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;
- (c) A mandatory preapplication review process to reduce permitting conflicts by providing guidance to applicants

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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 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 secretary's 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
- (f) Additional incentives for an applicant who proposes a project that provides a net ecosystem benefit.

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(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 subject to the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574, except

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421 that the administrative law judge's decision, as provided in s. 422 120.574(2)(f), shall be in the form of a recommended order and 423 shall not constitute the final action of the state agency. In 424 those proceedings where the action of only one agency of the 425 state other than the Department of Environmental Protection is 426 challenged, the agency of the state shall issue the final order 427 within 45 10 working days after of receipt of the administrative 428 law judge's recommended order, and the recommended order shall 429 inform the parties of their right to file exceptions or responses to the recommended order in accordance with the 430 431 uniform rules of procedure pursuant to s. 120.54. In those 432 proceedings where the actions of more than one agency of the 433 state are challenged, the Governor shall issue the final order 434 within 45 10 working days after of receipt of the administrative 435 law judge's recommended order, and the recommended order shall inform the parties of their right to file exceptions or 436 437 responses to the recommended order in accordance with the 438 uniform rules of procedure pursuant to s. 120.54. This paragraph 439 does not apply to the issuance of department licenses required 440 under any federally delegated or approved permit program. In 441 such instances, the department shall enter the final order. The 442 participating agencies of the state may opt at the preliminary 443 hearing conference to allow the administrative law judge's decision to constitute the final agency action. If a 444 445 participating local government agrees to participate in the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574 for purposes of review 446 447 of local government comprehensive plan amendments, s. 163.3184(9) and (10) apply. 448

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(b) Projects identified in paragraph (3)(f) or challenges to state agency action in the expedited permitting process for establishment of a state-of-the-art biomedical research institution and campus in this state by the grantee under s. 288.955 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.

- cooperative assistance and input regarding 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 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 office shall be responsible for certifying a

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business as eligible for undergoing expedited review under this section. Enterprise Florida, Inc., a county or municipal government, or the Rural Economic Development Initiative may recommend to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development that a project meeting the minimum job creation threshold undergo expedited review.

- 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 fewer less than 75,000 residents, or counties having fewer than 125,000 100,000 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.

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- 3. Extract natural resources.
- 4. Produce oil.

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- 5. Construct, maintain, or operate an oil, petroleum, natural gas, or sewage pipeline.
- Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.