

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to tree, timber, and vegetation
 3 trimming and removal; creating s. 589.37, F.S.;
 4 providing legislative findings; prohibiting the
 5 regulation of tree, timber, and vegetation trimming
 6 and removal performed by certain governmental
 7 entities; providing applicability; providing an
 8 effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Section 589.37, Florida Statutes, is created to
 13 read:

14 589.37 Regulation of tree, timber, and vegetation trimming
 15 and removal performed by certain governmental entities
 16 prohibited.—

17 (1) The Legislature finds that uncontrolled growth of
 18 trees or vegetation within rights-of-way owned or managed by the
 19 state, water management districts, water control districts,
 20 neighborhood improvement districts, independent special
 21 districts, or community development districts interferes with
 22 the operation and maintenance of flood protection and drainage
 23 infrastructure, including, but not limited to, canals, which are
 24 critical to the protection of the health, safety, and general
 25 welfare of the public.

26 (2) Where the state or a water management district, a
27 water control district created under chapter 298, a neighborhood
28 improvement district created under chapter 163, an independent
29 special district, or a community development district created
30 under chapter 190, has a duty to maintain any rights-of-way, a
31 municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the
32 state may not prohibit, restrict, or condition, or require a
33 permit, a fee, or mitigation for, the trimming or removal of
34 trees, timber, or vegetation.

35 (3) This section does not prohibit the licensing and
36 regulation by municipalities or counties of persons engaged in
37 tree, timber, or vegetation trimming or removal.

38 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.