

- 26 | 3. The Division of Workforce Services.
- 27 | 4. The Division of Finance and Administration.
- 28 | 5. The Division of Information Technology.
- 29 | 6. The Office of the Secretary.
- 30 | 7. The Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency,
- 31 | which shall:

32 | a. Oversee the department's critical objectives as
 33 | determined by the secretary and make sure that the department's
 34 | key objectives are clearly communicated to the public.

35 | b. Organize department resources, expertise, data, and
 36 | research to focus on and solve the complex economic challenges
 37 | facing the state.

38 | c. Provide leadership for the department's priority issues
 39 | that require integration of policy, management, and critical
 40 | objectives from multiple programs and organizations internal and
 41 | external to the department; and organize and manage external
 42 | communication on such priority issues.

43 | d. Promote and facilitate key department initiatives to
 44 | address priority economic issues and explore data and identify
 45 | opportunities for innovative approaches to address such economic
 46 | issues.

47 | e. Promote strategic planning for the department.

48 | 8. The Office of the Blue Economy.

49 | Section 2. Section 288.93, Florida Statutes, is created to
 50 | read:

51 288.93 Office of the Blue Economy.-

52 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "blue economy"
53 means the economic uses of ocean and coastal resources with a
54 focus on sustainable practices that benefit the long-term
55 outlook of relevant industry sectors and the competitive
56 positioning of the state in a global economy affected by climate
57 change, including, but not limited to, maritime industries such
58 as shipyards, marinas, marine terminals, piers, fishing,
59 aquaculture, seafood processing, commercial diving, and marine
60 transportation; floating and amphibious housing; tourism; and
61 outdoor recreational activities, including, but not limited to,
62 boating, and industry sectors dependent on such activities.

63 (2) The Office of the Blue Economy shall:

64 (a) Support the state's economy by connecting the state's
65 ocean and coastal resources to economic development strategies
66 that enhance or contribute to the blue economy with a focus on
67 research and development, technological innovation, emerging
68 industries, strategic business recruitment, public and private
69 funding opportunities, and workforce training and education.

70 (b) Survey state universities and Florida College System
71 institutions on the development of academic research relating to
72 the blue economy across all disciplines. The office shall
73 encourage collaboration between state universities and Florida
74 College System institutions with overlapping areas of academic
75 research. The office shall publish on the department's website

76 information on such collaboration and the current research
77 inventory.

78 (c) Collaborate with relevant industries to identify
79 economic challenges that may be solved through innovation in the
80 blue economy by commercializing or otherwise providing public
81 access to academic research and resources.

82 (d) Develop and facilitate a pipeline of academic
83 research, commercialization, accelerator programs, and startup
84 funding.

85 (e) Publish on the department's website reports on the
86 number, growth, and average wages of jobs included in the blue
87 economy. Such reports shall identify and address any relevant
88 labor shortages projected by the Labor Market Estimating
89 Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(7).

90 (f) Educate other state and local entities on the
91 interests of the blue economy by participating in the
92 development and implementation of policies relating to the
93 state's use of ocean and coastal resources, including, but not
94 limited to, long-term sustainability, best practices,
95 conservation efforts, ocean and coastal health, restoration and
96 protection of coral reefs, and beach renourishment.

97 (g) Communicate the state's role as an integral component
98 of the blue economy by promoting the state on national and
99 international platforms and other appropriate forums as the
100 premier destination for convening on pertinent subject matters.

101 (3) The department may adopt rules to administer this
102 section.

103 Section 3. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (1) of
104 section 403.928, Florida Statutes, to read:

105 403.928 Assessment of water resources and conservation
106 lands.—The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall
107 conduct an annual assessment of Florida's water resources and
108 conservation lands.

109 (1) WATER RESOURCES.—The assessment must include all of
110 the following:

111 (f) Biennially, beginning on January 1, 2023, the
112 evaluation of the state's blue economy required under s.
113 403.9303.

114 Section 4. Section 403.9303, Florida Statutes, is created
115 to read:

116 403.9303 Blue economy evaluation.—

117 (1) Beginning January 1, 2023, the Office of Economic and
118 Demographic Research shall conduct a biennial evaluation of the
119 state's blue economy for inclusion in its annual assessment
120 conducted pursuant to s. 403.928.

121 (2) The evaluation must include the following:

122 (a) The historical and current contributions to the
123 state's economy from maritime industries, including, but not
124 limited to:

125 1. Shipyards, marinas, marine terminals, piers, fishing,

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126 aquaculture, seafood processing, commercial diving, and marine
127 transportation.

128 2. Floating and amphibious housing.

129 3. Tourism.

130 4. Outdoor recreational activities, including, but not
131 limited to, boating, and industry sectors dependent on such
132 activities.

133 (b) Appropriate economic comparisons to other states to
134 identify comparative advantages and disadvantages.

135 (c) The identification and discussion of any growing,
136 emerging, or new industries that fit within the blue economy
137 structure.

138 (d) Beginning January 1, 2025, an analysis of the
139 contributions of the blue economy to the state, including, but
140 not limited to, the economic benefits, as defined in s.
141 288.005(1), of the efforts undertaken by the Office of the Blue
142 Economy pursuant to s. 288.93.

143 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.