A bill to be entitled
An act relating to saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments; amending s. 380.093, F.S.; requiring coastal counties to conduct vulnerability assessments analyzing the effects of saltwater intrusion on their water supplies and their preparedness to respond to threats, by a specified date; specifying requirements for the assessments; requiring each coastal county to provide copies of its assessment to the Department of Environmental Protection and the respective water management districts; requiring the water management districts, in collaboration with the coastal counties, to submit certain projects to the department based on the assessments by a specified date; requiring the department to update the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and make certain information received from the saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments available on its website; requiring the department to provide cost-share funding up to a specified amount for certain coastal counties; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5) of section 380.093, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

380.093 Resilient Florida Grant Program; comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and assessment; Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience
Plan; regional resilience entities.—

(5) STATEWIDE FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCE PLAN.—

(d) 1. By September 1, 2021, and each September 1 thereafter, counties and municipalities may submit to the department a list of proposed projects that address risks of flooding or sea level rise identified in vulnerability assessments that meet the requirements of subsection (3). A regional resilience entity may also submit such proposed projects to the department on behalf of one or more member counties or municipalities.

2. By September 1, 2021, and each September 1 thereafter, each water management district and flood control district may submit to the department a list of any proposed projects that mitigate the risks of flooding or sea level rise on water supplies or water resources of this state and a corresponding evaluation of each project.

3. By September 1, 2022, each coastal county in this state shall conduct a vulnerability assessment analyzing the effects of saltwater intrusion on the county’s water supply and the preparedness of the county to respond to such a threat, including water utility infrastructure, wellfield protection, and freshwater supply management.

a. Each saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessment must include all of the following information:

(I) The county’s primary water utilities.

(II) Current maps of the county’s freshwater wellfields and latest saltwater intrusion impact lines.

(III) Projections of saltwater intrusion over the next decade, including specific wells that may be impacted during
(IV) An analysis of the costs necessary to relocate freshwater wellfields that are anticipated to be impacted, including current projects that are underway to relocate the freshwater wellfields.

b. Each coastal county shall provide the department and the respective water management districts with a copy of the county’s saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessment. The department shall use the information to update its comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set under subsection (4). The water management districts shall, in collaboration with their coastal counties, use the information detailed in the assessments to submit projects to the department pursuant to subparagraph 2.

c. The department shall make the vulnerability assessment information it receives from coastal counties pursuant to this subparagraph accessible to the public on the department’s website.

d. For coastal counties with populations of 200,000 or less, the department shall provide 50 percent cost-share funding, up to $150,000, for each county’s saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessment.

4. Each project submitted to the department by a county, municipality, regional resilience entity, water management district, or flood control district for consideration by the department for inclusion in the plan must include:

a. A description of the project.

b. The location of the project.

c. An estimate of how long the project will take to
complete.

d. An estimate of the cost of the project.

e. The cost-share percentage available for the project.

f. The project sponsor.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.