CS/CS/HB 1411

1	A bill to be entitled
2	A bill to be entitled An act relating to floating solar facilities; creating
2	
	s. 163.32051, F.S.; providing legislative findings
4	regarding floating solar facilities; defining the term
5	"floating solar facility"; requiring a floating solar
6	facility to be a permitted use in certain land use
7	categories; requiring local governments to promote
8	expanded uses of floating solar facilities by taking
9	specified actions; authorizing a county or
10	municipality to specify buffer and landscaping
11	requirements; providing exceptions to the construction
12	of floating solar facilities; requiring the Office of
13	Energy within the Department of Agriculture and
14	Consumer Services to submit specified recommendations
15	to the Legislature regarding floating solar facilities
16	for certain entities; providing an effective date.
17	
18	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
19	
20	Section 1. Section 163.32051, Florida Statutes, is created
21	to read:
22	163.32051 Floating solar facilities
23	(1)(a) The Legislature finds that floating solar
24	facilities, also known as "floatovoltaics," can be effective
25	tools in harnessing energy in bodies of water that have been
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26	permitted for storage.
27	(b) The Legislature finds that siting floating solar
28	facilities on wastewater treatment ponds, abandoned limerock
29	mine areas, stormwater treatment ponds, reclaimed water ponds,
30	and other water storage reservoirs are beneficial uses of those
31	areas for many reasons, including the fact that the water has a
32	cooling effect on the solar panels, which can boost power
33	production, and the panels help decrease the amount of water
34	lost to evaporation and the formation of harmful algal blooms.
35	(c) Therefore, the Legislature finds that the siting of
36	floating solar facilities should be encouraged by local
37	governments as appropriate uses of water and land areas.
38	(2) For purposes of this section, the term "floating solar
39	facility" means a solar facility as defined in s. 163.3205(2),
40	which is located on wastewater treatment ponds, abandoned
41	limerock mine areas, stormwater treatment ponds, reclaimed water
42	ponds, or other water storage reservoirs.
43	(3) A floating solar facility shall be a permitted use in
44	the appropriate land use categories in each local government
45	comprehensive plan and each local government must amend its land
46	development regulations to promote the expanded use of floating
47	solar facilities.
48	(4) A county or municipality may adopt an ordinance
49	specifying buffer and landscaping requirements for floating
50	solar facilities. The requirements may not exceed the
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51	requirements for similar uses involving the construction of
52	other solar facilities that are permitted uses in agricultural
53	land use categories and zoning districts.
54	(5) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (4), a floating
55	solar facility may not be constructed in an Everglades
56	Agricultural Area reservoir project if the local governments
57	involved with the project determine that the floating solar
58	facility will have a negative impact on that project.
59	(6) The Office of Energy within the Department of
60	Agriculture and Consumer Services shall develop and submit
61	recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 2022, to
62	provide a regulatory framework to private and public sector
63	entities that implement floating solar facilities.
64	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.
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