

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1411

2022 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to floating solar facilities; creating  
 3 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.

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 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.