Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee

Representative Melo offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in partnership with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida and the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University, shall study the strategic use of innovative biomass nutrient removal technologies and mechanical aquatic plant management techniques where ecologically and technically feasible within the Lake Okeechobee watershed.

(2) At a minimum, the study must:

(a) Determine the benefits and drawbacks of biomass

nutrient removal technologies and mechanical aquatic plant management techniques.

(b) Document the reduction in nutrients for each aquatic plant acre mechanically harvested on an acre-for-acre basis.

(c) If hay has been applied, analyze the harvested hay to provide data on nutrient content and soil nutrient content. The data should provide metrics for nutrient removal and nutrient application to upland sites and the feasibility of both.

(d) Provide traceability and accountability for total nutrient removal.

(e) Determine the feasibility and sustainability of increased scalability of biomass nutrient removal technologies and mechanical aquatic plant management techniques statewide.

(3) The commission shall submit to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2023, a report on the study of the strategic use of innovative biomass nutrient removal technologies and mechanical aquatic plant management techniques, including recommendations for statutory changes.

Section 2. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of $1.5 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Of these funds, $1 million must be used for mechanical harvesting in Lake Okeechobee and $500,000 must be used to contract with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at

the University of Florida and the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University to study the strategic use of innovative biomass nutrient removal technologies and mechanical aquatic plant management techniques pursuant to this act.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to aquatic plant management; directing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in partnership with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida and the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University, to study certain nutrient removal technologies and mechanical aquatic plant management techniques within the Lake Okeechobee watershed; providing study requirements; directing the commission to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; providing report requirements; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the health of the state's waterbodies is intricately connected to the wellbeing of our state, its

residents, wildlife, and economy, and

WHEREAS, legacy nutrients derived from the treatment of invasive vegetation and unconsolidated biomass can contribute to degraded water quality, and

WHEREAS, removing legacy nutrients by physically removing invasive plants and biomass will improve water quality and help combat algal blooms, and

WHEREAS, innovative pilot projects involving extraction of nutrient rich matter and biomass harvesting technologies have demonstrated success in significantly reducing the amount of undesirable nutrients in the state's waters, and

WHEREAS, physically removing unwanted vegetation and the nutrients contained therein will improve the health and ecology of the state's waters, benefit anglers and other fishing enthusiasts, and encourage tourism, and

WHEREAS, repurposing legacy nutrients trapped in our waterways will improve local economies by allowing for a new, natural, and local source of soil amendments or compost for agricultural purposes that will also give way to innovation and job creation in the state, NOW, THEREFORE,