HB 979

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to deepwater port dredging; amending
3	s. 403.816, F.S.; directing the Department of
4	Environmental Protection to require a specified
5	analysis as a condition of permits issued for
6	maintenance dredging of deepwater ports; providing
7	requirements for conducting the analysis; requiring a
8	local government to provide notice of its intent to
9	conduct the analysis to certain local governments;
10	providing an effective date.
11	
12	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
13	
14	Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 403.816, Florida
15	Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and a new subsection
16	(3) is added to that section to read:
17	403.816 Permits for maintenance dredging of deepwater
18	ports and beach restoration projects
19	(3) As a condition of a permit issued for maintenance
20	dredging of deepwater ports pursuant to this section, the
21	department shall require a habitat equivalency analysis to
22	determine the adverse impacts of the dredging activity on the
23	natural habitat. The analysis must be conducted by an
24	independent contractor selected by the local government in a
25	manner prescribed by the department. The independent contractor
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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26	for the analysis may not be associated with any project of the
27	contractor performing the dredging activity for the local
28	government. The local government shall provide written notice of
29	its intent to conduct a habitat equivalency analysis to adjacent
30	local governments that may be impacted by the dredging activity.
31	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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