1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Office of the Blue Economy; 3 creating s. 288.102, F.S.; providing definitions; 4 creating the Office of the Blue Economy; providing 5 that the Office of the Blue Economy shall be housed 6 within a state university and administered by the 7 Board of Governors; providing duties of the Office of 8 the Blue Economy; requiring the Office of the Blue 9 Economy to annually provide a certain report to the Governor and the Legislature; providing an effective 10 11 date. 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 Section 288.102, Florida Statutes, is created 15 Section 1. 16 to read: 17 288.102 Office of the Blue Economy.-18 For purposes of this section, the term: (1)(a) "Blue economy" means the economic uses of ocean and 19 20 coastal resources with a focus on sustainable practices that 21 benefit the long-term outlook of relevant industry sectors and 22 the competitive positioning of the state in a global economy, 23 including, but not limited to, maritime industries such as 24 shipyards, marinas, marine terminals, piers, fishing,

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aquaculture, seafood processing, commercial diving, and marine

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transportation; floating and amphibious housing; tourism; and outdoor recreational activities, including, but not limited to, boating and industry sectors dependent on such activities.

- (b) "Office" means the Office of the Blue Economy.
- (2) The Office of the Blue Economy is created within the State University System to promote economic development by connecting the state's research institutions with financial resources to facilitate the transfer of innovative technology into marketable goods and services. The office shall be housed within a state university and administered by the Board of Governors of the State University System.
  - (3) The Office of the Blue Economy shall:
- (a) Support the state's economy by connecting the state's ocean and coastal resources to economic development strategies that enhance or contribute to the blue economy with a focus on research and development, technological innovation, emerging industries, strategic business recruitment, public and private funding opportunities, and workforce training and education.
- (b) Survey state universities and Florida College System institutions on the development of academic research relating to the blue economy across all disciplines. The office shall encourage collaboration between state universities and Florida College System institutions that have overlapping areas of academic research. The office shall publish on the office's website information on such collaboration and the current

research inventory.

- (c) Collaborate with relevant industries to identify
  economic challenges that may be solved through innovation in the
  blue economy by commercializing or otherwise providing public
  access to academic research and resources.
- (d) Develop and facilitate a pipeline of academic research, commercialization, accelerator programs, and startup funding.
- (e) Publish on the office's website reports on the number, growth, and average wages of jobs included in the blue economy.

  Such reports must identify and address any relevant labor shortages projected by the Labor Market Estimating Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(7).
- (f) Educate other state and local entities on the interests of the blue economy and how such entities may positively address environmental issues while simultaneously considering the economic impact of their policies.
- (g) Communicate the state's role as an integral component of the blue economy by promoting the state on national and international platforms and other appropriate forums as the premier destination for convening on pertinent subject matters.
- (h) Maintain a website on which the office shall publish information as required under this subsection.
- (4) Beginning January 1, 2025, by December 30 of each year, the Office of the Blue Economy shall provide to the

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