

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

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BILL: CS/SB 1580

INTRODUCER: Environment and Natural Resources Committee and Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Infrastructure and Resiliency

DATE: April 14, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Barriero</u>	<u>Rogers</u>	<u>EN</u>	<u><b>Fav/CS</b></u>
2.	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Betta</u>	<u>AEG</u>	<u><b>Favorable</b></u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1580 provides that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has the exclusive authority to execute coastal resiliency projects through public-private partnerships. The bill provides that, to encourage investment from the private sector in such projects, the DEP may:

- Enter into long-term revenue-sharing agreements.
- Provide expedited permitting for construction.
- Seek comments from local governments and the public during project planning and execution and incorporate actions responsive to such comments into the project.
- Engage in-state vocational schools and apprenticeship programs to train workers in specialized resiliency construction.

The bill requires the DEP to publish biennial progress reports for each coastal resiliency project funded through a public-private partnership. The DEP must also create and maintain on its website an online dashboard for real-time updates on project execution.

The DEP may incur indeterminate costs related to publishing biennial progress reports and maintaining an online dashboard with real-time updates on project execution. These costs can be absorbed within existing resources. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill provides that the bill takes effect upon becoming law.

## II. Present Situation:

### Statewide Resilience Programs

The Legislature has established several statewide resilience programs, including:

- The Resilient Florida Grant Program, which provides grants to local governments and water management districts for community resilience planning, including feasibility studies, vulnerability assessments, and adaptation planning.<sup>1</sup>
- The Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set and Assessment, which provides an inventory of critical assets and information necessary to determine the risks to inland and coastal communities such as elevation, tidal levels, and precipitation.<sup>2</sup>
- The Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, which consists of ranked projects that address risks of flooding and sea level rise to coastal and inland communities.<sup>3</sup>

### *Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan*

By December 1 of each year, the DEP must develop a Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan with a three-year planning horizon and submit it to the Governor and Legislature.<sup>4</sup> The plan must consist of ranked projects that address flooding and sea level rise risks for coastal and inland communities.<sup>5</sup> All eligible projects submitted must be ranked and included in the plan.<sup>6</sup> The DEP ranks the projects using a four-tiered scoring system.<sup>7</sup> Examples of projects include construction of living shorelines, seawalls, and pump stations, elevation projects, and infrastructure hardening.<sup>8</sup>

Each plan must include, among other things, a detailed description of the methodology used by the DEP to rank projects, details on the submitted project applications, and total funding requested, including for ineligible projects.<sup>9</sup> In addition, each plan must include the following information for each recommended project:

- A description of the project;
- The location of the project;
- An estimate of how long the project will take to complete;
- An estimate of the cost of the project;
- The cost-share percentage available for the project;
- A summary of the priority score assigned to the project; and
- The project sponsor.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 380.093(3), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 380.093(4), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 380.093(5), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 380.093(5)(a), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Section 380.093(5)(g), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> See DEP, *Statewide Resilience Plan: Fiscal Year 2024-25*, 8-12 (2023), available at [https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/2024-2025%20Statewide%20Resilience%20Plan-FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/2024-2025%20Statewide%20Resilience%20Plan-FINAL_0.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Section 380.093(5)(g), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 380.093(5)(c), F.S.

Counties, municipalities, special districts, and regional resilience entities may submit a list of proposed projects that address risks identified in statewide or local vulnerability assessments.<sup>11</sup> Water management districts, drainage districts, erosion control districts, flood control districts, and regional water supply authorities may also submit projects that mitigate flooding and sea level rise impacts on water supplies or water resources.<sup>12</sup>

Each project must have a 50 percent cost share unless the project assists or is within a community eligible for a reduced cost share.<sup>13</sup> The annual funding for the plan must be at least \$100 million.<sup>14</sup> Multiyear projects must continue receiving funding until completion if contractual obligations are met and funds remain available.<sup>15</sup>

### **Public-private Partnerships**

Public-private partnerships (P3s) are contractual arrangements between public entities and private sector entities<sup>16</sup> that facilitate increased private sector involvement in the funding and execution of public building and infrastructure projects. These agreements enable the collaboration of skills and assets from both public and private sectors to provide services or facilities for the benefit of the general public. Several statutes promote and offer direction for P3 projects, including those for services and facilities related to transportation,<sup>17</sup> housing,<sup>18</sup> and education.<sup>19</sup>

Current law allows responsible public entities (RPEs)<sup>20</sup> to engage in P3 projects aimed at developing an extensive array of public-use facilities or projects that fulfill a public purpose. Examples of qualifying projects include those for mass transit, vehicle parking, airports or seaports, educational facilities, and public sector buildings or complexes such as courthouses or

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<sup>11</sup> Section 380.093(5)(d)1., F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 380.093(5)(d)2., F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 380.093(5)(e), F.S. “Community eligible for reduced cost share” means (1) a municipality that has a population of 10,000 or fewer and a per capita annual income that is less than the state’s per capita annual income; (2) a county that has a population of 50,000 or fewer and a per capita annual income that is less than the state’s per capita annual; or (3) a municipality or county that has a per capita annual income that is equal to or less than 75 percent of the state’s per capita annual income. Populations are determined by the most recent April 1 population estimates posted on the Office of Economic and Demographic Research’s website. The state’s per capita income is based on the most recent release from the Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce. *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Section 380.093(5)(h), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> “Private entity” means any natural person, corporation, general partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, joint venture, business trust, public benefit corporation, nonprofit entity, or other private business entity. Section 255.065(1)(g), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> See section 334.30, F.S., relating to public-private transportation facilities.

<sup>18</sup> See section 420.0003(2)(b), F.S., relating to state housing strategy.

<sup>19</sup> See section 1013.35, F.S., relating to school district educational facilities plans.

<sup>20</sup> “Responsible public entity” means a county, municipality, school district, special district, or any other political subdivision of the state; a public body corporate and politic; or a regional entity that serves a public purpose and is authorized to develop or operate a qualifying project. Section 255.065(1)(j), F.S. “Develop” means to plan, design, finance, lease, acquire, install, construct, or expand. Section 255.065(1)(b), F.S. “Operate” means to finance, maintain, improve, equip, modify, or repair. Section 255.065(1)(f), F.S.

city halls.<sup>21</sup> Current law outlines specific requirements to which the RPEs must adhere, including protocols for reviewing and approving proposals.<sup>22</sup>

### ***Procurement Procedures***

Current law allows an RPE to receive unsolicited proposals or may solicit proposals for a qualifying P3 project and thereafter enter into a comprehensive agreement for the building, upgrading, operating, ownership, or financing of facilities.<sup>23</sup> An unsolicited proposal from a private entity for approval of a qualifying project must be accompanied by the following materials and information, unless waived by the RPE:

- A description of the project and the method proposed by the private entity to secure the necessary property interests required for the project.
- A description of the private entity's general plans for financing the project.
- The name and address of a designated contact person who can provide additional information about the proposal.
- The proposed user fees,<sup>24</sup> lease payments,<sup>25</sup> or other service payments throughout the term of the comprehensive agreement, along with the methodology for and circumstances allowing adjustments to these payments over time.
- Any additional material or information requested by the RPE.<sup>26</sup>

If the RPE intends to execute a comprehensive agreement for a project arising from an unsolicited proposal, the RPE must publish notice in the Florida Administrative Register and a newspaper of general circulation and mail a copy of the notice to each local government in the affected area.<sup>27</sup> The notice must be published at least once a week for two weeks stating the RPE has received a proposal and will accept other proposals for the same project.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> "Qualifying project" means a facility or project that serves a public purpose, including, but not limited to, any ferry or mass transit facility, vehicle parking facility, airport or seaport facility, rail facility or project, fuel supply facility, oil or gas pipeline, medical or nursing care facility, recreational facility, sporting or cultural facility, or educational facility or other building or facility that is used or will be used by a public educational institution, or any other public facility or infrastructure that is used or will be used by the public at large or in support of an accepted public purpose or activity; an improvement, including equipment, of a building that will be principally used by a public entity or the public at large or that supports a service delivery system in the public sector; a water, wastewater, or surface water management facility or other related infrastructure; or notwithstanding any provision of this section, for projects that involve a facility owned or operated by the governing board of a county, district, or municipal hospital or health care system, or projects that involve a facility owned or operated by a municipal electric utility, only those projects that the governing board designates as qualifying projects pursuant to this section. Section 255.065(1)(i), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> "Proposal" means a plan for a qualifying project with detail beyond a conceptual level for which terms such as fixing costs, payment schedules, financing, deliverables, and project schedule are defined. Section 255.065(1)(h), F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Section 255.065(3), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> "Fees" means charges imposed by the private entity of a qualifying project for use of all or a portion of such qualifying project pursuant to a comprehensive agreement. Section 255.065(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>25</sup> "Lease payment" means any form of payment, including a land lease, by a public entity to the private entity of a qualifying project for the use of the project. Section 255.065(1)(d), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Section 255.065(4), F.S. Any pricing or financial terms included in an unsolicited proposal must be specific as to when the pricing or terms expire.

<sup>27</sup> Section 255.065(3)(b), F.S. "Affected local jurisdiction" means a county, municipality, or special district in which all or a portion of a qualifying project is located. Section 255.065(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Section 255.065(3)(b)1., F.S.

The RPE may proceed with an unsolicited proposal for a qualifying project without engaging in a public bidding process if the RPE holds a duly noticed public meeting at which the proposal is presented and affected public entities and members of the public are able to provide comment and at a second duly noticed public meeting determines that the proposal is in the public's interest.<sup>29</sup> If the RPE decides to proceed with an unsolicited proposal without engaging in a public bidding process, the RPE must publish in the Florida Administrative Register for at least seven days a report that includes:

- The public interest determination;
- The factors considered in making such public interest determination; and
- The RPE's findings based on each considered factor.<sup>30</sup>

### ***Project Qualification and Approval***

After the public notification period has expired for an unsolicited proposal that is submitted and noticed for public hearing, the RPE ranks the proposals received in order of preference.<sup>31</sup> The RPE may then begin negotiations for a comprehensive agreement with the highest-ranked firm.<sup>32</sup>

Before approving a comprehensive agreement, the RPE must determine the proposed project:

- Is in the public's best interest.
- Is for a facility owned by the RPE or for which ownership will be conveyed to the RPE.
- Has adequate safeguards to prevent additional costs or service disruptions for the public in case of material default<sup>33</sup> or cancellation of the comprehensive agreement by the RPE.
- Includes measures to allow the RPE or the private entity to add capacity to the proposed project or other facilities serving similar predominantly public purposes.
- Will be owned by the RPE upon completion, expiration, or termination of the comprehensive agreement and upon payment of the financed amounts.<sup>34</sup>

### ***Comprehensive Agreement***

The RPE and the private entity must enter into a comprehensive agreement before developing or operating a qualifying project.<sup>35</sup> The comprehensive agreement must provide for:

- Delivery of performance and payment bonds, letters of credit, or other security related to the project's development or operation.
- Review of the project design by the RPE. This does not require the private entity to complete the project's design before executing the comprehensive agreement.
- Inspection of the project by the RPE.
- Maintenance of a public liability insurance policy, a copy of which together with proofs of coverage are filed with the RPE, or satisfactory proof of self-insurance.
- Monitoring the maintenance practices of the private entity by the RPE to ensure proper upkeep of the project.

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<sup>29</sup> Section 255.065(3)(c), F.S.

<sup>30</sup> Section 255.065(3)(d), F.S.

<sup>31</sup> Section 255.065(5)(c), F.S.

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> "Material default" means a nonperformance of its duties by the private entity of a qualifying project which jeopardizes adequate service to the public from the project. Section 255.065(1)(e), F.S.

<sup>34</sup> Section 255.065(3)(f), F.S.

<sup>35</sup> Section 255.065(7)(a), F.S.

- Periodic filing of financial statements pertaining to the project by the private entity.
- Procedures governing the rights and responsibilities of both parties in the event of a termination of the comprehensive agreement or a material default by the private entity.
- User fees, lease payments, or service payments that do not discourage use of the project, as may be established in the agreement.
- Duties of the private entity, including the terms and conditions that the RPE determines serve the public purpose of the project.<sup>36</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** amends s. 255.065, F.S., regarding public-private partnerships. The bill adds coastal resiliency projects as defined in s. 380.0934, F.S., (created by this bill) to the definition of “qualifying projects.”

**Section 2** creates s. 380.0934, F.S., regarding public-private partnerships for coastal resiliency projects. The bill provides that “coastal resiliency project” means:

- The planning, contracting, and execution of a project to address flooding and sea level rise in a coastal or inland community in this state pursuant to the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan;
- Public infrastructure repair and upgrades to seawalls and stormwater drainage; and
- Resiliency measures designed to withstand extreme weather, mitigate flooding, and prevent coastal erosion, including:
  - Acquisition of at-risk coastal and flood-prone properties;
  - Acquisition of properties in areas at high risk of flooding;
  - Infrastructure hardening and development of natural barriers;
  - Construction of large-scale seawalls, levees, and elevated flood barriers; or
  - Expansion and restoration of natural protective systems.

The bill provides that the DEP has the exclusive authority to execute coastal resiliency projects through public-private partnerships. The bill defines “public-private partnerships” as a coastal resiliency project entered into by the DEP under s. 255.065, F.S.

The bill provides that, to encourage investment from the private sector in coastal resiliency projects, the DEP may:

- Enter into long-term revenue-sharing agreements.
- Provide expedited permitting for construction.
- Seek comments from local governments and the public during project planning and execution and incorporate actions responsive to such comments into the project.
- Engage in-state vocational schools and apprenticeship programs to train workers in specialized resiliency construction.

The bill requires the DEP to publish biennial progress reports for each coastal resiliency project funded through a public-private partnership, including project milestones, expenditures, and public benefits, on the DEP’s website. The DEP must also create and maintain on its website an online dashboard for real-time updates on project execution.

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<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

**Section 3** provides that the bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The DEP may incur costs related to publishing biennial progress reports and maintaining an online dashboard with real-time updates on project execution. These costs can be absorbed within existing resources.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 255.065 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates section 380.0934 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Environment and Natural Resources on March 25, 2025:**

The committee substitute deletes the underlying bill and:

- Provides that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has the exclusive authority to execute coastal resiliency projects through public-private partnerships.
- Allows DEP to encourage private sector investment in coastal resiliency projects through revenue-sharing agreements, expedited permitting, public engagement, and workforce training initiatives.
- Requires DEP to publish biennial progress reports and maintain an online dashboard with real-time updates on project execution.

**B. Amendments:**

None.