

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to brownfields; amending s. 376.303,  
3           F.S.; deleting a provision requiring certain property  
4           owners to provide information regarding institutional  
5           controls to the local government for mapping purposes;  
6           deleting local government requirements for such  
7           mapping; requiring that sites issued a site  
8           rehabilitation completion order without institutional  
9           controls be removed from the registry of all  
10          contaminated sites located in a brownfield area;  
11          amending s. 376.30781, F.S.; revising the conditions  
12          under which an applicant who has rehabilitated a  
13          contaminated site may submit and claim certain tax  
14          credits; specifying a timeframe within which such tax  
15          credit application must be submitted; revising the  
16          criteria for determining applicants who are  
17          redeveloping brownfield sites who may be eligible for  
18          certain tax credits; deleting the definition of the  
19          term "monetary compensation"; revising the date by  
20          which the Department of Environmental Protection must  
21          issue annual site rehabilitation tax credit  
22          certificate awards; revising the amount of time the  
23          department has to respond to a tax credit applicant  
24          regarding a certain notice; amending s. 376.78, F.S.;  
25          conforming provisions to changes made by the act;

26 | amending s. 376.79, F.S.; revising and providing  
27 | definitions; amending s. 376.81, F.S.; providing  
28 | legislative findings; prohibiting the department or a  
29 | delegated local pollution control program from denying  
30 | a specified status or refusing to issue a specified  
31 | order for certain brownfield sites that are only a  
32 | portion of larger contaminated sites; providing  
33 | applicability; amending s. 376.82, F.S.; revising the  
34 | persons and sites eligible for participation in the  
35 | brownfield program; revising requirements for such  
36 | participation; requiring that completion of the  
37 | performance of remediation obligations at the  
38 | brownfield site be evidenced by a site rehabilitation  
39 | completion order; revising the information necessary  
40 | from the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
41 | and the department for a person's participation in the  
42 | program; specifying that certain brownfield sites are  
43 | eligible to participate in the brownfield program  
44 | under certain circumstances; amending ss. 196.1995 and  
45 | 288.1175, F.S.; conforming cross-references;  
46 | reenacting s. 1004.53(1), F.S., relating to the Center  
47 | for Brownfield Rehabilitation Assistance, to  
48 | incorporate the amendment made to s. 376.79, F.S., in  
49 | a reference thereto; providing an effective date.  
50 |

51 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

52

53 **Section 1. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 376.303,**  
54 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

55 376.303 Powers and duties of the Department of  
56 Environmental Protection.—

57 (5) ~~MAPPING.—If an institutional control is implemented at~~  
58 ~~any contaminated site in a brownfield area designated pursuant~~  
59 ~~to s. 376.80, the property owner must provide information~~  
60 ~~regarding the institutional control to the local government for~~  
61 ~~mapping purposes. The local government must then note the~~  
62 ~~existence of the institutional control on any relevant local~~  
63 ~~land use and zoning maps with a cross-reference to the~~  
64 ~~department's site registry developed pursuant to subsection (6).~~  
65 ~~If the type of institutional control used requires recording~~  
66 ~~with the local government, then the map notation shall also~~  
67 ~~provide a cross-reference to the book and page number where~~  
68 ~~recorded. When a local government is provided with evidence that~~  
69 ~~the department has subsequently issued a no further action order~~  
70 ~~without institutional controls for a site currently noted on~~  
71 ~~such maps, the local government shall remove the notation.~~

72 ~~(6)~~ REGISTRY.—The department shall prepare and maintain a  
73 registry of all contaminated sites located in a brownfield area  
74 designated pursuant to s. 376.80, which are subject to  
75 institutional and engineering controls, in order to provide a

76 mechanism for the public and local governments to monitor the  
77 status of these controls, monitor the department's short-term  
78 and long-term protection of human health and the environment in  
79 relation to these sites, and evaluate economic revitalization  
80 efforts in these areas. At a minimum, the registry must ~~shall~~  
81 include the type of institutional or engineering controls  
82 employed at a particular site, types of contaminants and  
83 affected media, land use limitations, and the county in which  
84 the site is located. Sites listed on the registry at which the  
85 department has subsequently issued a site rehabilitation  
86 completion ~~no further action~~ order without institutional  
87 controls must ~~shall~~ be removed from the registry. The department  
88 shall make the registry available to the public and local  
89 governments within 1 year after the effective date of this act.  
90 The department shall provide local governments with actual  
91 notice when the registry becomes available. Local zoning and  
92 planning offices shall post information on how to access the  
93 registry in public view.

94 **Section 2. Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (3)**  
95 **and subsection (9) of section 376.30781, Florida Statutes, are**  
96 **amended to read:**

97 376.30781 Tax credits for rehabilitation of drycleaning-  
98 solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated  
99 brownfield areas; application process; rulemaking authority;  
100 revocation authority.—

101 (3)

102 (c) In order to encourage completion of site  
103 rehabilitation at contaminated sites that are being voluntarily  
104 cleaned up and that are eligible for a tax credit under this  
105 section, the tax credit applicant may claim an additional 25  
106 percent of the total site rehabilitation costs, not to exceed  
107 \$500,000, if the Department of Environmental Protection has  
108 approved the applicant's annual site rehabilitation application  
109 and has issued a site rehabilitation completion in the final  
110 year of cleanup as evidenced by the Department of Environmental  
111 Protection issuing a "No Further Action" order for that site.  
112 The tax credit applicant must submit the claim for the  
113 additional 25 percent within 2 years after receipt of the site  
114 rehabilitation completion order for that site.

115 (d) In order to encourage the construction of housing that  
116 meets the definition of affordable provided in s. 420.0004, an  
117 applicant for the tax credit may claim an additional 25 percent  
118 of the total site rehabilitation costs that are eligible for tax  
119 credits under this section, not to exceed \$500,000. To receive  
120 this additional tax credit, the applicant must provide a  
121 certification letter from the Florida Housing Finance  
122 Corporation, the local housing authority, or other governmental  
123 agency that is a party to the use agreement indicating that the  
124 construction on the brownfield site has received a certificate  
125 of occupancy and the brownfield site has a properly recorded

126 instrument that limits the use of the property to housing.  
 127 Notwithstanding that only one application may be submitted each  
 128 year for each site, an application for the additional credit  
 129 provided for in this paragraph must ~~shall~~ be submitted after all  
 130 requirements to obtain the additional tax credit have been met.

131 (e) In order to encourage the redevelopment of a  
 132 brownfield site, as defined in the brownfield site  
 133 rehabilitation agreement, that is hindered by the presence of  
 134 solid waste, as defined in s. 403.703, costs related to solid  
 135 waste removal may also be claimed under this section. A tax  
 136 credit applicant, or multiple tax credit applicants working  
 137 jointly to clean up a single brownfield site, may also claim  
 138 costs to address the solid waste removal as defined in this  
 139 paragraph in accordance with department rules. Multiple tax  
 140 credit applicants shall be granted tax credits in the same  
 141 proportion as each applicant's contribution to payment of solid  
 142 waste removal costs. These costs are eligible for a tax credit  
 143 provided that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements  
 144 of s. 376.82(1) and that ~~submits an affidavit stating that,~~  
 145 ~~after consultation with appropriate local government officials~~  
 146 ~~and the department, to the best of the applicant's knowledge~~  
 147 ~~based upon such consultation and available historical records,~~  
 148 the brownfield site was never operated as a permitted solid  
 149 waste disposal area as regulated pursuant to s. 403.704 ~~or was~~  
 150 ~~never operated for monetary compensation, and the applicant~~

151 ~~submits all other documentation and certifications required by~~  
152 ~~this section.~~ In this section, where reference is made to "site  
153 rehabilitation," the department shall instead consider whether  
154 the costs claimed are for solid waste removal. Tax credit  
155 applications claiming costs pursuant to this paragraph are ~~shall~~  
156 not ~~be~~ subject to the calendar-year limitation and January 31  
157 annual application deadline, and the department shall accept a  
158 one-time application filed subsequent to the completion by the  
159 tax credit applicant of the applicable requirements listed in  
160 this subsection. A tax credit applicant may claim 50 percent of  
161 the costs for solid waste removal, not to exceed \$500,000, after  
162 the applicant has determined solid waste removal is completed  
163 for the brownfield site. A solid waste removal tax credit  
164 application may be filed only once per brownfield site. For the  
165 purposes of this section, the term:

166 1. "Solid waste disposal area" means a landfill, dump, or  
167 other area where solid waste has been disposed.

168 2. ~~"Monetary compensation" means the fees that were~~  
169 ~~charged or the assessments that were levied for the disposal of~~  
170 ~~solid waste at a solid waste disposal area.~~

171 3. "Solid waste removal" means removal of solid waste from  
172 the land surface or excavation of solid waste from below the  
173 land surface and removal of the solid waste from the brownfield  
174 site. The term also includes:

175 a. Transportation of solid waste to a licensed or exempt

176 solid waste management facility or to a temporary storage area.

177 b. Sorting or screening of solid waste prior to removal  
178 from the site.

179 c. Deposition of solid waste at a permitted or exempt  
180 solid waste management facility, whether the solid waste is  
181 disposed of or recycled.

182 (9) On or before June ~~May~~ 1, the Department of  
183 Environmental Protection shall inform each tax credit applicant  
184 ~~that is~~ subject to the January 31 annual application deadline of  
185 the applicant's eligibility status and the amount of any tax  
186 credit due. The department shall provide each eligible tax  
187 credit applicant with a tax credit certificate that must be  
188 submitted with its tax return to the Department of Revenue to  
189 claim the tax credit or be transferred pursuant to s.  
190 220.1845(2)(g). The June ~~May~~ 1 deadline for annual site  
191 rehabilitation tax credit certificate awards does ~~shall~~ not  
192 apply to any tax credit application for which the department has  
193 issued a notice of deficiency pursuant to subsection (8). The  
194 department shall respond within 120 ~~90~~ days after receiving a  
195 response from the tax credit applicant to such a notice of  
196 deficiency. Credits may not result in the payment of refunds if  
197 total credits exceed the amount of tax owed.

198 **Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 376.78, Florida**  
199 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

200 376.78 Legislative intent.—The Legislature finds and



201 declares the following:

202 (1) The reduction of public health and environmental  
 203 hazards on ~~existing commercial and industrial~~ sites proposed to  
 204 be rehabilitated and redeveloped is vital to their use and reuse  
 205 as sources of employment, housing, recreation, and open space  
 206 areas. The reuse of such sites ~~industrial land~~ is an important  
 207 component of sound land use policy for productive urban purposes  
 208 which will help prevent the premature development of farmland,  
 209 open space areas, and natural areas, and reduce public costs for  
 210 installing new water, sewer, and highway infrastructure.

211 **Section 4. Present subsections (6) through (21) of section**  
 212 **376.79, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (7)**  
 213 **through (22), respectively, a new subsection (6) is added to**  
 214 **that section, and subsections (4) and (5) of that section are**  
 215 **amended, to read:**

216 376.79 Definitions relating to Brownfields Redevelopment  
 217 Act.—As used in ss. 376.77–376.85, the term:

218 (4) "Brownfield ~~sites~~" means any real property, the  
 219 expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated  
 220 by actual or perceived environmental contamination and which has  
 221 not yet been entered into a brownfield site rehabilitation  
 222 agreement pursuant to s. 376.80(5).

223 (5) "Brownfield area" means a contiguous area of one or  
 224 more brownfields ~~brownfield sites~~, some of which may not be  
 225 contaminated, and which has been designated by a local

226 government by resolution. Such areas may include all or portions  
227 of community redevelopment areas, enterprise zones, empowerment  
228 zones, other such designated economically deprived communities  
229 and areas, and United States Environmental Protection Agency-  
230 designated brownfield pilot projects.

231 (6) "Brownfield site" means the real property identified  
232 in a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement executed by the  
233 person responsible for brownfield site rehabilitation of the  
234 property and the department or a delegated local pollution  
235 control program, as applicable.

236 **Section 5. Present subsection (3) of section 376.81,**  
237 **Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (4), a new**  
238 **subsection (3) is added to that section, and present subsection**  
239 **(3) of that section is amended, to read:**

240 376.81 Brownfield site and brownfield areas contamination  
241 cleanup criteria.—

242 (3) (a) The Legislature finds that rehabilitation and  
243 redevelopment of a potential brownfield site that is a portion  
244 of a larger contaminated site are significantly complicated when  
245 multiple parties may own, lease, or operate different portions  
246 of the contaminated site. The Legislature further finds that  
247 delaying a person's ability to achieve a "No Further Action"  
248 status for a potential brownfield site until such time as the  
249 owners, lessees, or operators of all other portions of the  
250 larger historical contaminated site have completed site

251 rehabilitation on their respective portions is not in the public  
252 interest, as such delay disincentivizes rehabilitation and  
253 redevelopment of the potential brownfield site by imposing  
254 unnecessary legal burdens, technical obstacles, and financial  
255 costs.

256 (b) Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is in the  
257 public interest to remove any such barriers to the  
258 rehabilitation and redevelopment of property by providing a  
259 clear path to obtaining a "No Further Action" status in cases  
260 where a potential brownfield site is only a portion of a larger  
261 contaminated site.

262 (c) If the person responsible for a brownfield site  
263 rehabilitation demonstrates compliance with the applicable  
264 contamination cleanup criteria described in subsection (1), and  
265 the brownfield site is only a portion of a larger contaminated  
266 site, the department or any delegated local pollution control  
267 program under s. 376.80(9) may not:

268 1. Deny a "No Further Action" status for the brownfield  
269 site; or

270 2. Refuse to issue a site rehabilitation completion order  
271 for the brownfield site, regardless of whether it has  
272 engineering and institutional controls. This subparagraph  
273 applies even where similar contamination exists elsewhere on the  
274 contaminated site which was the result of similar or related  
275 activities or operations that occurred both on the contaminated

276 site and the brownfield site, provided that all soil and  
 277 groundwater contamination emanating from the brownfield site is  
 278 adequately addressed pursuant to chapter 62-780, Florida  
 279 Administrative Code.

280 (d) This subsection applies to all brownfield sites,  
 281 irrespective of the effective date of the brownfield site  
 282 rehabilitation agreement.

283 (4)-(3) The cleanup criteria described in this section  
 284 govern only site rehabilitation activities occurring at the  
 285 brownfield ~~contaminated~~ site. Removal of contaminated media from  
 286 a site for offsite relocation or treatment must be in accordance  
 287 with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and  
 288 regulations.

289 **Section 6. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) and**  
 290 **paragraphs (e) and (g) of subsection (2) of section 376.82,**  
 291 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

292 376.82 Eligibility criteria and liability protection.—

293 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—

294 (a) All of the following persons are eligible to  
 295 participate in the brownfield program established in ss. 376.77-  
 296 376.85:

297 1. Notwithstanding subparagraph 2., a any person who has  
 298 not caused or contributed to the contamination of a brownfield  
 299 site on or after July 1, 1997.

300 2. A local governmental entity, including any other person

301 who may be organized or united with the local governmental  
302 entity for a business purpose, if such entity or person did not  
303 cause or contribute to the contamination of a brownfield site on  
304 or after July 1, 2025.

305 (b) A person eligible to participate in the brownfield  
306 program pursuant to paragraph (a) is, ~~is eligible to participate~~  
307 ~~in the brownfield program established in ss. 376.77-376.85,~~  
308 subject to the following:

309 1.(a) Potential brownfield sites that are subject to an  
310 ongoing formal judicial or administrative enforcement action or  
311 corrective action pursuant to federal authority, including, but  
312 not limited to, the Comprehensive Environmental Response  
313 Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 9601 et seq., as  
314 amended; the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 300f-300i,  
315 as amended; the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251-1387, as  
316 amended; or under an order from the United States Environmental  
317 Protection Agency pursuant to s. 3008(h) of the Resource  
318 Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended (42 U.S.C.A. s.  
319 6928(h)); or that have obtained or are required to obtain a  
320 permit for the operation of a hazardous waste treatment,  
321 storage, or disposal facility; a postclosure permit; or a permit  
322 pursuant to the federal Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of  
323 1984, are not eligible for participation in the brownfield  
324 program established in ss. 376.77-376.85 unless, pursuant to  
325 paragraph (2) (g), ~~specific exemptions are secured by a~~

326 ~~memorandum of agreement with the United States Environmental~~  
327 ~~Protection Agency~~ issues a letter stating it has no objection to  
328 such participation and the department issues a letter of  
329 concurrence pursuant to paragraph (2) (g). A brownfield site  
330 within an eligible brownfield area that subsequently becomes  
331 subject to formal judicial or administrative enforcement action  
332 or corrective action under such federal authority shall have its  
333 eligibility revoked unless, ~~specific exemptions are secured by a~~  
334 ~~memorandum of agreement with the United States Environmental~~  
335 ~~Protection Agency~~ pursuant to paragraph (2) (g), the United  
336 States Environmental Protection Agency issues a letter stating  
337 it has no objection to such participation and the department  
338 issues a letter of concurrence.

339 2.(b) A person who is eligible to participate in the  
340 brownfield program pursuant to paragraph (a) ~~Persons who have~~  
341 ~~not caused or contributed to the contamination of a brownfield~~  
342 ~~site on or after July 1, 1997, and who, before prior to the~~  
343 department's approval of a brownfield site rehabilitation  
344 agreement, is ~~are~~ subject to ongoing corrective action or  
345 enforcement under state authority established in this chapter or  
346 chapter 403, including those persons subject to a pending  
347 consent order with the state, is ~~are~~ eligible for participation  
348 in a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement if:

349 a.1. The proposed brownfield site is currently idle or  
350 underutilized as a result of the contamination, and

351 participation in the brownfield program will immediately, after  
352 cleanup or sooner, result in increased economic productivity at  
353 the site, including at a minimum the creation of 10 new  
354 permanent jobs, whether full-time or part-time, which are not  
355 associated with implementation of the brownfield site  
356 rehabilitation agreement. However, the job creation requirement  
357 does not apply to the rehabilitation and redevelopment of a  
358 brownfield site that will provide housing that is affordable as  
359 defined in s. 420.0004; create recreational areas, conservation  
360 areas, or parks; or be maintained for cultural or historical  
361 preservation purposes; and

362 b.2- The person is complying in good faith with the terms  
363 of an existing consent order or department-approved corrective  
364 action plan, or responding in good faith to an enforcement  
365 action, as evidenced by a determination issued by the department  
366 or an approved local pollution control program.

367 (2) LIABILITY PROTECTION.—

368 (e) Completion of the performance of the remediation  
369 obligations at the brownfield site shall be evidenced by a site  
370 rehabilitation completion order ~~letter or a "no further action"~~  
371 ~~letter~~ issued by the department or the approved local pollution  
372 control program, which letter shall include the following  
373 statement: "Based upon the information provided by (property  
374 owner) concerning property located at (address), it is the  
375 opinion of (the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

376 or approved local pollution control program) that (party) has  
377 successfully and satisfactorily implemented the approved  
378 brownfield site rehabilitation agreement schedule and,  
379 accordingly, no further action is required to assure that any  
380 land use identified in the brownfield site rehabilitation  
381 agreement is consistent with existing and proposed uses."

382 (g)1. The Legislature recognizes the benefits of promoting  
383 the reuse of brownfield sites, even when subject to its  
384 limitations in addressing cleanup liability under federal  
385 pollution control programs, including those enumerated in  
386 subparagraph (1) (b)1. In an effort to encourage such reuse  
387 secure federal liability protection for persons willing to  
388 undertake ~~remediation~~ responsibility for site rehabilitation at  
389 a brownfield site, the department may, upon receipt of a letter  
390 from shall attempt to negotiate a memorandum of agreement or  
391 similar document with the United States Environmental Protection  
392 Agency stating it has no objection to a site's participation  
393 pursuant to subparagraph (1) (b)1. and upon a reasonable  
394 demonstration by the person seeking to participate in the  
395 brownfield program that he or she will conduct site  
396 rehabilitation pursuant to s. 376.81, issue a letter of no  
397 objection that states the person may participate in the  
398 brownfield program. The department may not require, as a  
399 condition of such letter of concurrence, that, whereby the  
400 United States Environmental Protection Agency agree ~~agrees~~ to



401 forego enforcement of federal corrective action authority at  
402 brownfield sites that have received a site rehabilitation  
403 completion order ~~or "No Further Action" determination~~ from the  
404 department or the approved local pollution control program or  
405 that are in the process of implementing a brownfield site  
406 rehabilitation agreement in accordance with this act. The letter  
407 of no objection from the United States Environmental Protection  
408 Agency and the letter of concurrence from the department must be  
409 added as attachments to the brownfield site rehabilitation  
410 agreement.

411 2. Proposed brownfield sites that are subject to ongoing  
412 formal judicial or administrative enforcement action or  
413 corrective action pursuant to an order from the United States  
414 Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to s. 3008(h) of the  
415 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended by 42 U.S.C.  
416 s. 6928(h), or that have obtained or are required to obtain a  
417 permit for the operation of a hazardous waste treatment,  
418 storage, or disposal facility, a postclosure permit, or a permit  
419 pursuant to the federal Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of  
420 1984 are eligible for participation in the brownfield program  
421 established in ss. 376.77-376.85, provided that the sites:

422 a. Obtain the necessary letters of no objection and  
423 concurrence pursuant to subparagraph (1)(b)1. and subparagraph  
424 1.; or

425 b. Comply with the provisions of Section V of the

426 Memorandum of Agreement between the department and the United  
427 States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 covering  
428 Florida's Brownfield Program, dated November 28, 2005, as may be  
429 amended.

430 **Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 196.1995, Florida**  
431 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

432 196.1995 Economic development ad valorem tax exemption.—

433 (3) The board of county commissioners or the governing  
434 authority of the municipality that calls a referendum within its  
435 total jurisdiction to determine whether its respective  
436 jurisdiction may grant economic development ad valorem tax  
437 exemptions may vote to limit the effect of the referendum to  
438 authority to grant economic development tax exemptions for new  
439 businesses and expansions of existing businesses located in an  
440 enterprise zone or a brownfield area, as defined in s. 376.79 ~~s.~~  
441 ~~376.79(5)~~. If an area nominated to be an enterprise zone  
442 pursuant to s. 290.0055 has not yet been designated pursuant to  
443 s. 290.0065, the board of county commissioners or the governing  
444 authority of the municipality may call such referendum prior to  
445 such designation; however, the authority to grant economic  
446 development ad valorem tax exemptions does not apply until such  
447 area is designated pursuant to s. 290.0065. The ballot question  
448 in such referendum shall be in substantially the following form  
449 and shall be used in lieu of the ballot question prescribed in  
450 subsection (2):

451  
 452 Shall the board of county commissioners of this county  
 453 (or the governing authority of this municipality, or  
 454 both) be authorized to grant, pursuant to s. 3, Art.  
 455 VII of the State Constitution, property tax exemptions  
 456 for new businesses and expansions of existing  
 457 businesses that are located in an enterprise zone or a  
 458 brownfield area and that are expected to create new,  
 459 full-time jobs in the county (or municipality, or  
 460 both)?

461  
 462 ....Yes—For authority to grant exemptions.  
 463 ....No—Against authority to grant exemptions.

464 **Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section**  
 465 **288.1175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

466 288.1175 Agriculture education and promotion facility.—  
 467 (5) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
 468 shall competitively evaluate applications for funding of an  
 469 agriculture education and promotion facility. If the number of  
 470 applicants exceeds three, the Department of Agriculture and  
 471 Consumer Services shall rank the applications based upon  
 472 criteria developed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
 473 Services, with priority given in descending order to the  
 474 following items:  
 475 (c) The location of the facility in a brownfield site as

476 defined in s. 376.79 ~~s. 376.79(4)~~, a rural enterprise zone as  
477 defined in s. 290.004, an agriculturally depressed area as  
478 defined in s. 570.74, or a county that has lost its agricultural  
479 land to environmental restoration projects.

480 **Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
481 **made by this act to section 376.79, Florida Statutes, in a**  
482 **reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 1004.53, Florida**  
483 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

484 1004.53 Interdisciplinary Center for Brownfield  
485 Rehabilitation Assistance.—The Center for Brownfield  
486 Rehabilitation Assistance in the Environmental Sciences and  
487 Policy Program is established in the College of Arts and  
488 Sciences at the University of South Florida with the  
489 collaboration of other related disciplines such as business  
490 administration, environmental science, and medicine. The center  
491 shall work in conjunction with other state universities. The  
492 Center for Brownfield Rehabilitation Assistance shall:

493 (1) Conduct research relating to problems and solutions  
494 associated with rehabilitation and restoration of brownfield  
495 areas as defined in s. 376.79. The research must include  
496 identifying innovative solutions to removing contamination from  
497 brownfield sites to reduce the threats to drinking water  
498 supplies and other potential public health threats from  
499 contaminated sites.

500 **Section 10.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.