

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to Biscayne Bay; creating s. 163.11,  
 3           F.S.; establishing the Biscayne Bay Commission;  
 4           providing for commission purpose, membership, duties,  
 5           and authority; amending s. 403.086, F.S.; prohibiting  
 6           sewage disposal facilities from disposing of any  
 7           wastes into Biscayne Bay; providing an effective date.  
 8

9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 10

11           Section 1. Section 163.11, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 12   read:

13           163.11 Biscayne Bay Commission.-

14           (1) (a) The Biscayne Bay Commission is hereby established  
 15           as the official coordinating clearinghouse for all public policy  
 16           and projects related to Biscayne Bay to unite all governmental  
 17           agencies, businesses, and residents in the area to speak with  
 18           one voice on bay issues; to develop coordinated plans,  
 19           priorities, programs, projects, and budgets that might  
 20           substantially improve the bay area; and to act as the principal  
 21           advocate and watchdog to ensure that bay projects are funded and  
 22           implemented in a proper and timely manner. The commission shall  
 23           comply with the requirements of s. 20.052 except as otherwise  
 24           provided in this section.

25           (b) The commission may seek and receive funding to further

26 its coordinating authority or functions regarding bay  
27 improvement projects of the commission. This act does not affect  
28 or supersede the regulatory authority of any governmental agency  
29 or any local government, and any responsibilities of any  
30 governmental entity relating to Biscayne Bay remain with the  
31 respective governmental entity. However, the commission may  
32 accept any specifically defined coordinating authority or  
33 functions delegated to the commission by any governmental entity  
34 through a memorandum of understanding or other legal instrument.  
35 The commission shall use powers of persuasion to achieve its  
36 objectives through the process of building a consensus work plan  
37 and through widespread publication of regular progress reports.

38 (2) The Biscayne Bay Commission shall consist of:

39 (a) A policy committee comprised of three members of the  
40 Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners; three members of the  
41 Miami-Dade County League of Cities; one member of the South  
42 Florida Water Management District Governing Board who resides in  
43 Miami-Dade County; one representative of the Department of  
44 Environmental Protection; one representative of the Fish and  
45 Wildlife Conservation Commission; one representative of the  
46 Florida Inland Navigation District; and one representative of  
47 the United States Department of the Interior. All members shall  
48 be voting members. The policy committee may meet monthly, but  
49 shall meet at least quarterly.

50 (b) A chief officer, who shall be authorized to represent

51 the commission and to implement all policies, plans, and  
52 programs of the commission. The chief officer shall advise the  
53 Miami-Dade County Mayor and act as a liaison with county  
54 departments, county boards, external agencies, stakeholder  
55 groups, and local, state, and federal governments.

56 (c) A working group consisting of all governmental  
57 agencies that have jurisdiction in the Biscayne Bay area, as  
58 well as representatives from business and civic associations.

59 (3) The policy committee shall have the following powers  
60 and duties:

61 (a) Consolidate existing plans, programs, and proposals,  
62 including the recommendations outlined in the June 2020 Biscayne  
63 Bay Task Force report, into a coordinated strategic plan for  
64 improvement of Biscayne Bay and the surrounding areas,  
65 addressing environmental, economic, social, recreational, and  
66 aesthetic issues. The committee shall monitor the progress on  
67 each element of such plan and shall revise the plan regularly.

68 (b) Prepare an integrated financial plan using the  
69 different jurisdictional agencies available for projected  
70 financial resources. The committee shall monitor the progress on  
71 each element of such plan and revise the plan regularly.

72 (c) Provide technical assistance and political support as  
73 needed to help implement each element of the strategic and  
74 financial plans.

75 (d) Accept any specifically defined coordinating authority

76 or function delegated to the committee by any level of  
77 government through a memorandum of understanding or other legal  
78 instrument.

79 (e) Publicize a semiannual report describing  
80 accomplishments of the commission and each member agency, as  
81 well as the status of each pending task. The committee shall  
82 distribute the report to the Miami City Commission, the Miami-  
83 Dade County Board of County Commissioners, the Mayor of Miami,  
84 the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, the Governor, the chair of the  
85 Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, stakeholders, and the  
86 local media.

87 (f) Seek grants from public and private sources and  
88 receive grant funds to provide for the enhancement of its  
89 coordinating authority and functions and activities and  
90 administer contracts that achieve these goals.

91 (g) Provide a forum for exchange of information and  
92 facilitate the resolution of conflicts.

93 (h) Act as a clearinghouse for public information and  
94 conduct public education programs.

95 (i) Establish the Biscayne Bay working group, appoint  
96 members to the group, and organize subcommittees, delegate  
97 tasks, and seek counsel from members of the working group as  
98 necessary to carry out the powers and duties listed in this  
99 subsection.

100 (j) Elect officers and adopt rules of procedure as

101 necessary to carry out the powers and duties listed in this  
102 subsection and solicit appointing authorities to name  
103 replacements for policy committee members who do not participate  
104 on a regular basis.

105 (k) Hire the commission's chief officer and employ any  
106 additional staff necessary to assist the chief officer.

107 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
108 403.086, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

109 403.086 Sewage disposal facilities; advanced and secondary  
110 waste treatment.—

111 (1)

112 (c) Notwithstanding this chapter or chapter 373, sewage  
113 disposal facilities may not dispose of any wastes into Old Tampa  
114 Bay, Tampa Bay, Hillsborough Bay, Boca Ciega Bay, St. Joseph  
115 Sound, Clearwater Bay, Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay,  
116 Roberts Bay, Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor Bay, Biscayne Bay, or,  
117 beginning July 1, 2025, Indian River Lagoon, or into any river,  
118 stream, channel, canal, bay, bayou, sound, or other water  
119 tributary thereto, without providing advanced waste treatment,  
120 as defined in subsection (4), approved by the department. This  
121 paragraph does not apply to facilities which were permitted by  
122 February 1, 1987, and which discharge secondary treated  
123 effluent, followed by water hyacinth treatment, to tributaries  
124 of tributaries of the named waters; or to facilities permitted  
125 to discharge to the nontidally influenced portions of the Peace

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126 | River.

127 | Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.