

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to seagrass mitigation banks; amending
 3 s. 253.03, F.S.; authorizing the Board of Trustees of
 4 the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to establish
 5 seagrass mitigation banks under certain conditions;
 6 providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

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 10 Section 1. Subsection (17) is added to section 253.03,
 11 Florida Statutes, to read:

12 253.03 Board of trustees to administer state lands; lands
 13 enumerated.—

14 (17) The board of trustees may establish seagrass
 15 mitigation banks under s. 373.4136 to ensure the preservation
 16 and regeneration of seagrass, as defined in s. 253.04(3)(a), and
 17 to offset the unavoidable impacts of projects when seagrass
 18 banks meet the public interest criteria under chapters 253 and
 19 258. This subsection does not prohibit mitigation for impacts to
 20 seagrass or other habitats on sovereignty or nonsovereignty
 21 submerged lands, upon approval of the board of trustees.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.