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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to floating solar facilities; creating
 s. 163.32051, F.S.; providing legislative findings
 regarding floating solar facilities; defining the term
 "floating solar facility"; requiring a floating solar
 facility to be a permitted use in certain land use
 categories; requiring local governments to promote
 expanded uses of floating solar facilities by taking
 specified actions; authorizing a county or
 municipality to specify buffer and landscaping
 requirements; providing exceptions to the construction
 of floating solar facilities; requiring the Office of
 Energy within the Department of Agriculture and
 Consumer Services to submit specified recommendations
 to the Legislature regarding floating solar facilities
 for certain entities; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 163.32051, Florida Statutes, is created
 to read:

163.32051 Floating solar facilities.-

(1)(a) The Legislature finds that floating solar
 facilities, also known as "floatavoltaics," can be effective
 tools in harnessing energy in manmade bodies of water.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

26 (b) The Legislature finds that siting floating solar
27 facilities on wastewater treatment ponds, abandoned limerock
28 mine areas, and other water storage reservoirs are beneficial
29 uses of those areas for many reasons, including the fact that
30 the water has a cooling effect on the solar panels which can
31 boost power production and the panels help decrease the amount
32 of water lost to evaporation and the formation of harmful algal
33 blooms.

34 (c) Therefore, the Legislature finds that the siting of
35 floating solar facilities should be encouraged by local
36 governments as appropriate uses of water and land areas.

37 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "floating solar
38 facility" means a solar facility as defined in s. 163.3205(2)
39 which is located on wastewater treatment ponds, abandoned
40 limerock mine areas, or other manmade water storage reservoirs.

41 (3) A floating solar facility shall be a permitted use in
42 the appropriate land use categories in each local government
43 comprehensive plan and each local government must amend its land
44 development regulations to promote the expanded use of floating
45 solar facilities.

46 (4) A county or municipality may adopt an ordinance
47 specifying buffer and landscaping requirements for floating
48 solar facilities. The requirements may not exceed the
49 requirements for similar uses involving the construction of
50 other solar facilities that are permitted uses in agricultural

51 land use categories and zoning districts.

52 (5) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (4), a floating
53 solar facility may not be constructed in an Everglades
54 Agricultural Area reservoir project if the local governments
55 involved with the project determine that the floating solar
56 facility will have a negative impact on that project.

57 (6) The Office of Energy within the Department of
58 Agriculture and Consumer Services shall develop and submit
59 recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 2022, to
60 provide a regulatory framework to private and public sector
61 entities that implement floating solar facilities.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.