

## CHAPTER 97-187

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 103

An act relating to funding for beach management; amending s. 161.091, F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to make a concerted effort to identify an additional dedicated revenue source to fund the beach nourishment plan; requiring the department, in concert with any increased funding, to develop a corresponding multiyear repair and maintenance strategy and providing the requirements thereof; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature, pursuant to s. 161.088, Florida Statutes, has previously recognized that beach erosion is a serious threat to the economic and general welfare of the people of this state, which has advanced to emergency proportions, and

WHEREAS, since this declaration a decade ago, the health of Florida beaches has further deteriorated, over one-third of which are now critically eroding, can no longer provide effective upland storm protection, and have lost much of their value to tourism, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the urgency of the problem and declares its intent to fully fund the development and implementation of the comprehensive, long-range, statewide beach management plan for erosion control, beach preservation, beach restoration, beach nourishment, and hurricane protection provided for in ss. 161.091-161.202, Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Legislature to fund the implementation of Florida's beach management plan, for at least the next 15 years, in the amount of \$30 million to \$35 million annually and to do so in a fiscally responsible manner, and

WHEREAS, while the Legislature finds that reliance on general revenue in the short term may be necessary, its intent is to further identify other permanent, designated funding sources for the continued implementation of this beach-saving management strategy, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 161.091, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

161.091 Funding for beach management.—

(1) Subject to such appropriations as the Legislature may make therefor from time to time, disbursements from the Florida Permit Fee Trust Fund may be made by the division subject to the approval of the department in order to carry out the proper state responsibilities in a comprehensive, long-range, statewide beach management plan for erosion control; beach preservation, beach restoration, and beach renourishment; and hurricane protection. The department shall make a concerted effort to identify an additional dedicated revenue source to fund the beach management plan.

(2) In concert with any increased funding, the department shall develop a corresponding multiyear repair and maintenance strategy that:

(a) Ensures the geographic coordination and sequencing of prioritized projects;

(b) Reduces equipment mobilization and demobilization costs;

(c) Maximizes the infusion of beach-quality sand into the system;

(d) Extends the life of beach nourishment projects and reduces the frequency of renourishment; and

(e) Promotes inlet sand bypassing to replicate the natural flow of sand interrupted by inlets and ports.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 30, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1997.