CHAPTER 2005-261

House Bill No. 1029

An act relating to funding for dredging projects; creating s. 311.115, F.S.; requiring the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council to establish a matching funds program for certain dredging projects; requiring the adoption of rules and criteria for project evaluation; requiring approved projects to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Transportation, and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1.   Section 311.115, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

311.115   Dredging projects matching funds program.—

(1)   The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council shall establish a program to fund dredging projects in counties having a population of less than 300,000 according to the last official census. Funds made available under this program shall be used to fund approved projects for dredging or deepening of channels, turning basins, or harbors. Funding shall be on a 50-50 matching basis with any port authority, as defined in s. 315.02(2), that complies with the permitting requirements in part IV of chapter 373 and the local financial management and reporting provisions of part III of chapter 218.

(2)   The council shall adopt rules for evaluating projects submitted for funding pursuant to this section and establish criteria for evaluating the economic benefit of such projects. The rules shall also establish and require an administrative review process similar to the process contained in s. 311.09(5)-(9) for projects approved for funding pursuant to this section to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Transportation, and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

Section 2.   This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved by the Governor June 17, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 17, 2005.