

## CHAPTER 2016-195

### Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1176

An act relating to dredge and fill activities; amending s. 373.4144, F.S.; revising the acreage of wetlands and other surface waters subject to impact by dredge and fill activities under a state programmatic general permit; providing that seeking to use such a permit consents to specified federal wetland jurisdiction criteria; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to delegate federal permitting programs for the discharge of dredged or fill material; deleting certain conditions limiting when the department may assume federal permitting programs for the discharge of dredged or fill material; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 373.4144, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

373.4144 Federal environmental permitting.—

(2)(a) In order to effectuate efficient wetland permitting and avoid duplication, the department and water management districts are authorized to implement a voluntary state programmatic general permit for all dredge and fill activities impacting 10 ~~3~~ acres or less of wetlands or other surface waters, including navigable waters, subject to agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, if the general permit is at least as protective of the environment and natural resources as existing state law under this part and federal law under the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

(b) By seeking to use a statewide programmatic general permit, an applicant consents to applicable federal wetland jurisdiction criteria, which are not included pursuant to this part, but which are authorized by the regulations implementing s. 404 of the Clean Water Act, Pub. L. No. 92-500, as amended, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq., and s. 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 as required by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, notwithstanding s. 373.4145 and for the limited purpose of implementing the state programmatic general permit authorized by this subsection.

~~(3) The department may pursue This section may not preclude the department from pursuing a series of regional general permits for construction activities in wetlands or surface waters or delegation or complete assumption of federal permitting programs regulating the discharge of dredged or fill material pursuant to s. 404 of the Clean Water Act, Pub. L. No. 92-500, as amended, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq., and s. 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, so long as the assumption encompasses all dredge and fill activities in, on, or over jurisdictional wetlands or waters, including navigable waters, within the state.~~

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

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2016.