

CS/CS/SB

302—Coastal

Resiliency

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The Nature
Conservancy

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Photo: Palm Beach County



CS/CS/SB 302—Coastal Resiliency

- Sponsored by Senator Iliana Garcia and Representative Mooney.
- Signed by Governor DeSantis on March 3,
- Effective date of July 1, 2026.
- Chapter 2026-1, Laws of Florida



Policies to Support Nature-Based Solutions

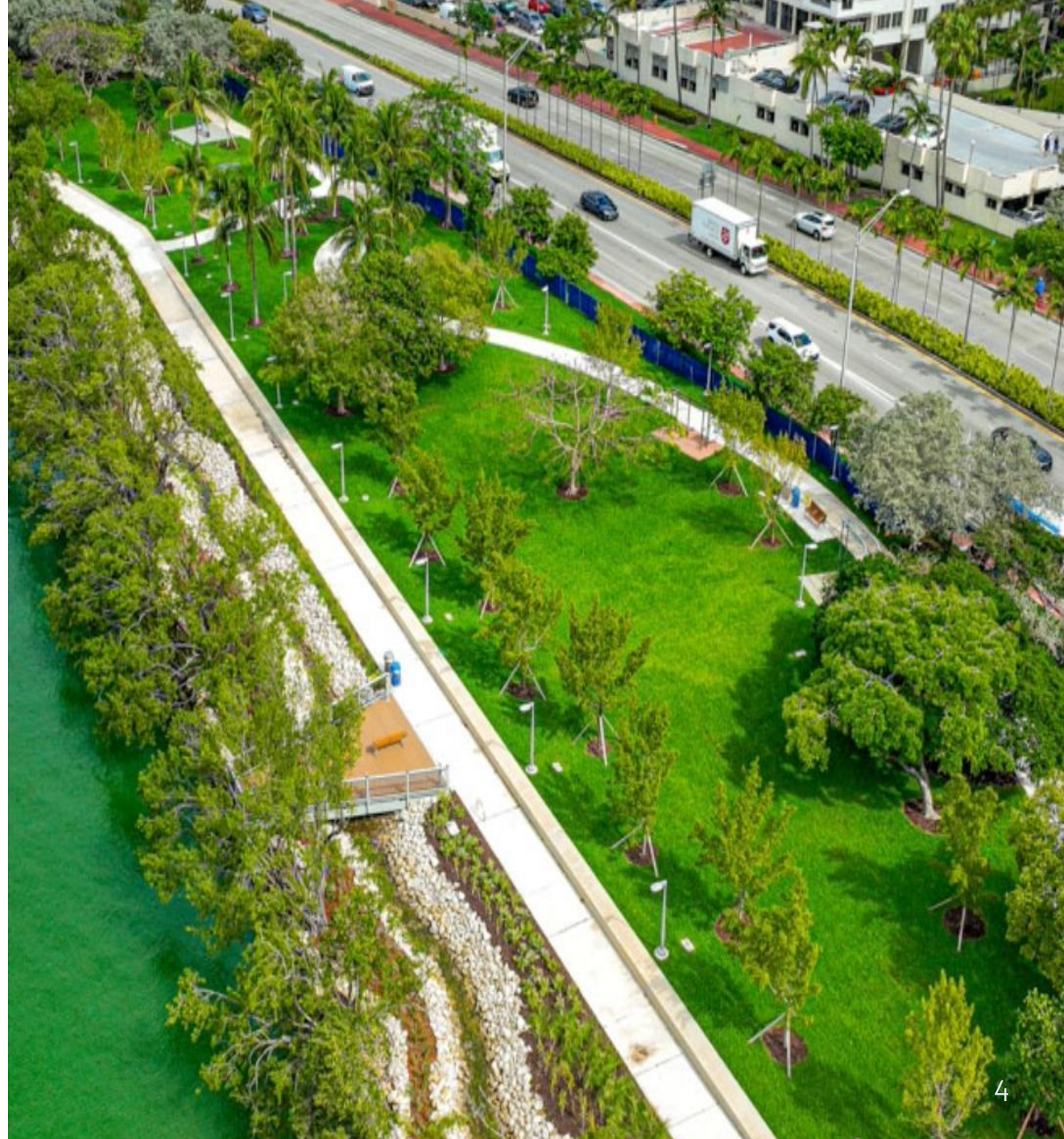
Development of Design Standards & Permit Standards for Nature-Based Solutions

- Requires FDEP to develop design guidelines and standards by January 1, 2027, for optimal combinations of nature-based methods for using green or hybrid green-gray infrastructure to address coastal resiliency.
- Requires FDEP to initiate rulemaking, subject to legislative ratification, for a statewide permitting process by January 1, 2027.
- Requires ratification of rulemaking by the Florida Legislature.



Nature-Based Permitting Process Criteria

- Criteria and thresholds for permits, including monitoring, inspection and reporting.
- Procedures for review of applications, duration and transfer of permits.
- Provisions for emergencies, abandonment and removal of systems and significant erosion in areas of critical concern.
- Exemptions and general permits that do not allow adverse impacts.
- Improvement of coastal resiliency using nature-based solutions, including living seawalls, shoreline and vegetation planting, seagrass planting, wave attenuation devices, **green or hybrid green-gray stormwater infrastructure**, beach renourishment, dune and wetland restoration, reinforced dunes, reef restoration, and ecologically sound building materials.



Nature-Based Permitting Process Criteria, cont.

- Creation of permitting incentives for use of new technologies, including 3-D printing.
- Development of efficient permitting process after storm events or disasters to replace failed coastal infrastructure with nature-based or green gray-hybrid infrastructure.
- Protection and maintenance of access to navigation.
- Identification of ways local governments can participate in coastal resiliency.



Aquatic Preserves

- Amends s. 258.42, F.S., authorizing the Board of Trustees to maintain aquatic preserves and establishing permitting criteria.
- Provides an exemption from the prohibition of certain structures within the aquatic preserve for nature-based solutions to improve coastal resiliency, including living seawalls, shoreline and vegetation.

Map from FDEP

A AQUATIC PRESERVES

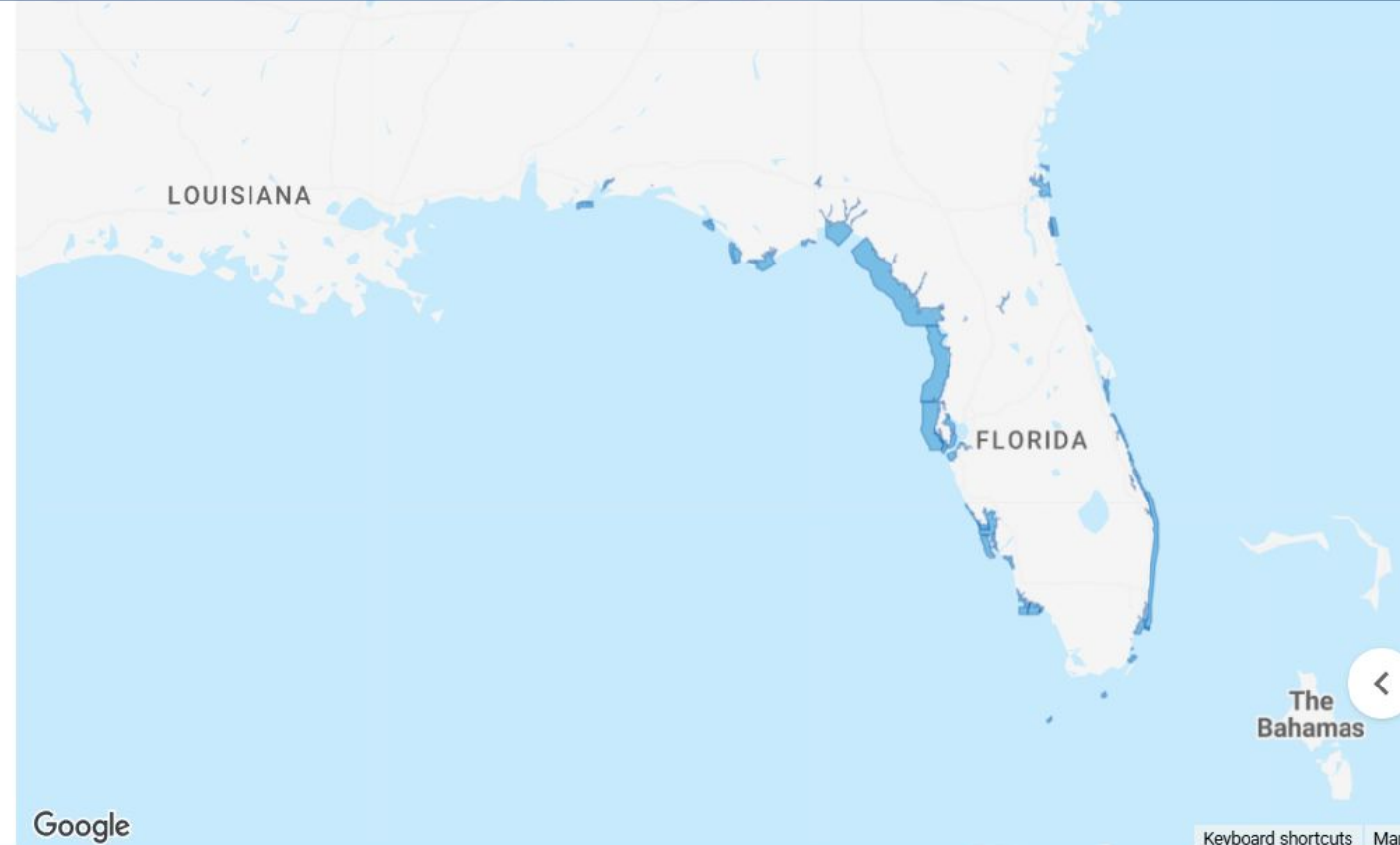
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Biscayne Bay

Aquatic

Preserve

- Allows minimum dredging and filling in Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve as may be authorized for the restoration and enhancement of natural systems, including substrate for vegetation planting and restoration for mangroves, salt marshes, seagrasses, and oyster reefs for coastal resiliency purposes.



Terra Ceia

Aquatic

Preserve

- Prohibits dredging and filling of the submerged lands of Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve except under certain circumstances:
 - Minimum dredging as authorized for public navigation projects or for a public necessity.
 - The placement of riprap or other alternation that is necessary to enhance the quality and utility of the preserve.
 - Dredging and filling as may be necessary for the purpose of eliminating hazardous conditions.
 - Minimum dredging and filling authorized for the creation and maintenance of marinas, public boat ramps, piers and docks, upon specific finding that will not adversely affect water quality.
- Public notice requirements.



Implementation

- FDEP Resilient Florida Program leading development of design standards by January 1, 2027.
- Rulemaking for statewide permitting process initiated by January 1, 2027.
- Statewide permitting process rules require legislation ratification.
- Aquatic Preserve dredge and fill criteria changes.

