

The bill defines public-private partnership as a coastal resiliency project entered into by a local government pursuant to the statutory procedures and requirements applicable to public-private partnerships.³ (Section [5](#))

The bill adds coastal resiliency projects, as defined under the bill’s provisions, to the definition of a “qualifying project” for the purposes of public-private partnerships. (Section [3](#))

The bill authorizes DEP to encourage investment from the private sector in coastal resiliency projects by:

- Entering into long-term revenue-sharing agreements.
- Providing expedited permitting for construction.
- Seeking comments from local governments and the public during project planning and execution and incorporating actions responsive to such comments into the project.
- Engaging in-state vocational schools and apprenticeship programs to train workers in specialized resiliency construction. (Section [5](#))

The bill requires DEP to publish biennial progress reports for each coastal resiliency project funded through a public-private partnership, including project milestones, expenditures, and public benefits, on its website. DEP is also required to create and maintain an online dashboard on its website for real-time updates on project execution. (Section [5](#))

Rule Ratification for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs Minimum Flows and Levels

The bill ratifies DEP’s revisions to the [minimum flows and levels](#) (MFLs) for the [Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs](#) and related definitions within rules 62-42.200 and 62-42.300, F.A.C.⁴ MFLs are established at the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area. The proposed rule relies on conservation practices, monitoring, and offsets to protect the continued health and ecological value of the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs. (Section [26](#))

The [statement of estimated regulatory costs](#) developed by DEP concluded that the proposed rules will likely increase costs to regulated entities by \$158,450,588 to \$163,836,003 in the aggregate within five years after the rules’ implementation. Additionally, an estimated \$1,975,050 to \$11,712,476 in indirect costs are expected to be incurred by the Suwannee River Water Management District. This amount triggers the statutory requirement for the rule to be ratified by the Legislature before it may go into effect. (Section [26](#))

Effective Date

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section [27](#))

RULEMAKING:

The bill ratifies rules relating to the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs minimum flows and levels and recovery strategies, thus allowing these rules to go into effect.

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

³ See [s. 255.065, F.S.](#)

⁴ The proposed changes to R. 62-42.200, F.A.C., define terms used in the remainder of the rule chapter and have no independent regulatory effects or costs. See DEP, Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs-Summary of SERC Economic Assessment: Rule 62-42.300, F.A.C.: Attachment A (Oct. 2, 2025), available at <https://floridadep.gov/owper/water-policy/documents/attachment-lsfir-serc-summary-serc-economic-assessment> at 8.