| **House Bill 3279**Senate AmendmentsSection-by-Section Analysis |
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| HOUSE VERSION | SENATE VERSION (CS) | CONFERENCE |
| SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 66, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 66.024 to read as follows:Sec. 66.024. SEAGRASS PLANTS. (a) In this section, "seagrass plant" means a flowering marine plant of the species:(1) Cymodocea filiformis, known as manatee grass;(2) Halodule beaudettei, known as shoal grass;(3) Halophila engelmannii, known as star grass or Engelmann's seagrass;(4) Ruppia maritima, known as widgeon grass; or(5) Thalassia testudinum, known as turtle grass.(b) A person may not uproot or dig out any rooted seagrass plant from a bay bottom or other saltwater bottom area in the jurisdiction of this state by means of a propeller, except as that uprooting or digging out may be authorized by:(1) a coastal lease granted by the General Land Office; or(2) a commercial license or permit issued by the department.(c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that a person:(1) anchors a vessel within an area containing seagrass plants and uproots a seagrass plant;(2) uses an electric trolling motor within an area containing seagrass plants and uproots a seagrass plant; or(3) operates a vessel in a manner consistent with the acceleration required to reach and stay on plane.(d) A person who violates this section or a proclamation of the commission under this section commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor. | SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 66, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 66.024 to read as follows:Sec. 66.024. SEAGRASS PLANTS. (a) In this section, "seagrass plant" means a flowering marine plant of the species:(1) Cymodocea filiformis, known as manatee grass;(2) Halodule beaudettei or Halodule wrightii, known as shoal grass;(3) Halophila engelmannii, known as star grass or Engelmann's seagrass;(4) Ruppia maritima, known as widgeon grass; or(5) Thalassia testudinum, known as turtle grass.(b) A person may not uproot or dig out any rooted seagrass plant from a bay bottom or other saltwater bottom area in the jurisdiction of this state by means of a propeller, except as that uprooting or digging out may be authorized by a commercial license or permit issued by the department.(c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that a person:(1) anchors a vessel within an area containing seagrass plants and uproots a seagrass plant;(2) uses an electric trolling motor within an area containing seagrass plants and uproots a seagrass plant; or(3) operates a vessel in a manner consistent with the acceleration required to reach and stay on plane.(d) A person who violates this section or a proclamation of the commission under this section commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor. |  |
| SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013. | SECTION 2. Same as House version. |  |