A bill to be entitled
An act relating to Lee County; creating the Captiva
Island Conservation Area; providing legislative
intent; providing limitation on height and density of
certain structures with the conservation area;
restricting the commercial, industrial or multi-family
use of land to those lands zoned for such uses prior
to the effective date of this act; providing
application; providing for enforcement; providing
severability; designating the act as Captiva Island
Conservation Area Act; requiring a referendum;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The Legislature of the State of Florida hereby
finds that Captiva Island is a fragile barrier island of
particular natural beauty containing abundant plant, marine,
animal and bird life; that the island has limited
infrastructure, hurricane evacuation routes, water resources,
wastewater systems and environmental resources; that
conservation of the island is in the best interest of Captiva
Island property owners, the citizens of Lee County, and the
State of Florida; and that the extent to which development of
the island is permitted to occur will have a substantial impact
on the ecology and natural beauty of the island and the water

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In order to preserve and conserve the fragile ecosystems and natural characteristics of the island, it is necessary to restrict the land uses and the height and density of structures and to limit noise, light, water and air pollution. The purpose of this act is to permit limited development of the island while preserving its natural beauty and plant, marine, animal and bird life, its mangrove fringe, and its sustainability.

Section 2. There is hereby created a special conservation area, for the uses and purposes set forth herein, known as the Captiva Island Conservation Area. The boundaries of the district shall include all of Captiva Island in Lee County, including all adjacent submerged lands, tidal lands, overflow lands, and tidal ponds.

Section 3. (1) No building or other structure shall be erected or altered within the district so that the peak of the roof is more than 28 feet base flood elevation.

The height of buildings and structures may not exceed the least restrictive of the two following options:

- (1) Thirty-five feet above the average grade of the lot in question or 42 feet above mean sea level measured to the peak of the roof, whichever is lower; or
- (2) Twenty-eight feet above the lowest horizontal member at or below the lawful base flood elevation measured to the mean level between eaves and ridge in the case of gable

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hip and gambrel roofs.

- (2) The density of any development which includes dwelling units, whether or not it includes commercial rental dwelling units such as hotels or motels, shall not exceed 3 dwelling units per acre. In computing such density, only land above mean sea level, contiguous and under single ownership may be utilized. Parcels which are bisected by a publicly dedicated road, including state and county roads, shall not be considered contiguous for the purpose of computing density hereunder.
- (3) A single-family dwelling may be constructed on lands zoned for such use, including lots which were platted and recorded prior to the effective date of this act or lands rezoned for single family use after the effective date of this act. Notwithstanding, the use of nonconforming lots shall be governed by local zoning regulations.
- (4) No land within the district shall be used for commercial, industrial, or multi-family purposes except land that was zoned for such uses prior to the effective date of this act. Nothing contained in this act shall preclude maintenance of fuel supply facilities at existing ports or off-loading facilities.
- (5) This section shall not render legally existing structures unlawful or prohibit the right to build back nonconforming buildings damaged by natural disaster in compliance with updated federal flood elevations without a

reduction in use, density, intensity, size or square footage of the damaged buildings.

Section 4. (1) This act shall not be construed as limiting the application of or repealing any local comprehensive land use plan, law, or rule dealing with the subject of zoning, conservation, or air and water pollution standards; but if any of the standards specified by this act are more restrictive than those specified in such other plan, law, or rule, the standards specified by this act shall prevail.

- (2) No local government body may grant variances or exceptions to the height, density, or other requirements of this act.
- (3) In order to enforce the provisions of this act and/or to enjoin a violation of same, a real property owner need not allege or prove that the violation of this act will adversely affect the property rights of said real property owner to any greater extent or different degree than said violation will affect any other real property owner within the district. A real property owner who is successful in his or her efforts to enforce this act through civil proceedings shall be awarded a reasonable attorney's fee and court costs which shall be assessed as a judgment against the person or persons determined by the court to have violated this act. No action by any county commission shall be required as a condition precedent to enforcement of this act pursuant to this section.

101	Section 5. If any provision of this act or the application
102	thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
103	invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of
104	the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision
105	or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are
106	declared severable.
107	Section 6. This act shall be known and cited as the Captiva
108	Island Conservation Area Act.
109	Section 7. (1) During the 2024 general election, there
110	shall be a referendum election concerning whether this act shall
111	become a law.
112	(2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be
113	in substantially the following form:
114	CREATING CAPTIVA ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA
115	(3) The referendum question shall be placed on the ballot
116	in substantially the following form:
117	Shall Chapter 2024- , Laws of Florida, creating the
118	Captiva Island Conservation Area, limiting the height of certain
119	structures, limiting the density of dwelling units, and limiting
120	commercial, industrial, or multi-family zoning those areas zoned
121	for that purpose on the effective date of the act?
122	<u>() Yes.</u>
123	<u>() No.</u>
124	(4) The referendum election shall be conducted by the
125	Supervisor of Elections of Lee County in accordance with the

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Florida Election Code.

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Section 8. This act shall take effect upon approval by a majority vote of qualified electors in the proposed Captiva Island Conservation Area voting in a referendum to be held at the 2024 general election, except section 7 and this section shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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