



AGENDA REPORT  
February 26, 2019

**Supporting the Passage of HB 141 and SB 216**

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**SUBJECT:**

Resolution Supporting the Passage of HB 141 and SB 216

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

District 3

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Board approval of the attached resolution

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

Chairman Randy Fine has filed HB 141 for consideration during the 2019 Regular Session. Should this bill pass and be signed into law, it would provide the County with opportunities to secure matching funding for major lagoon restoration projects.

On January 22nd, 2019, this resolution was brought before the Board. At that time, the Board requested that the resolution be brought back with changes to more narrowly tailor its support for availability of matching funds. However, after discussion with Chairman Fine, it has become clear that this would be detrimental to the County's best interests. As such, this resolution is substantively unchanged.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

- ▢ **Resolution in Support of HB 141**



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001  
Fax: (321) 264-6972  
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

February 27, 2019

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** John Tobia, District 3 Commissioner

**RE:** Item I.2., Resolution Supporting the Passage of HB 141 and SB 216

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 26, 2019, adopted Resolution No. 19-022, to show Board support for the passage of HB 141 and SB 216. Enclosed is a certified copy of the Resolution.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

*Tammy Rowe*

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/cmw

Encl. (1)

**Resolution 19- 022**

**Supporting Funding Opportunities Contained in House Bill 141 and Senate Bill 216 in  
Furtherance of Restoring the Indian River Lagoon**

**WHEREAS**, HB 141 has been introduced by Chairman Randy Fine; and

**WHEREAS**, a Senate companion bill, SB 216, has been introduced by Senator Gruters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Indian River Lagoon is an estuary of critical importance to the local, regional, and national ecology; and

**WHEREAS**, fishkills are frequently occurring within the Indian River Lagoon, including severe fishkills in 2016 and 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, algal blooms, including those which have a direct impact on the health of citizens and visitors of Brevard County, have occurred in 2018, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012, and 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard County's brown tide is negatively impacting fisheries, recreation, tourism, and property values; and

**WHEREAS**, pollution of the Indian River Lagoon has been a major contributor to the loss of more than 60% of seagrass beds; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential restoration of the Indian River Lagoon has been projected to increase the economic impact of tourism by over \$997 million; and

**WHEREAS**, should the Indian River Lagoon not be restored, it is estimated that the local economy would lose approximately \$3 billion in tourism and recreation revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed legislation gives Brevard County and its partners the opportunity to request more than \$50 million in matching funding for projects benefiting the Indian River Lagoon; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the position of Brevard County that State funding is critical to restoring the Indian River Lagoon to its natural beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, such funding will be available for projects which would directly prevent sewage discharges into the Lagoon; and

**WHEREAS**, local match will also be available for septic-to-sewer conversion projects, which have been a focus of Brevard County and is included in the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan approved by the Citizens' Oversight Committee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY FLORIDA** does let it be known that it supports matching funding opportunities contained in House Bill 141 and Senate Bill 216 due to its desire to prevent pollution of, and to remove pollution from, the Indian River Lagoon.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 26<sup>th</sup> Day of February, A.D., 2019.



KRISTINE ISNARDI, CHAIR  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BREVARD COUNTY, FL

ATTEST:

As approved by Board 2/26/19



SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK