

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to tree, timber, and vegetation
 3 trimming and removal; creating s. 589.37, F.S.;
 4 prohibiting the regulation of the trimming or removal
 5 of trees, timber, or vegetation performed by certain
 6 governmental entities; prohibiting certain local
 7 governmental actions relating to the trimming or
 8 removal of trees, timber, or vegetation; providing for
 9 continued local regulation and licensing of tree
 10 trimmers; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Section 589.37, Florida Statutes, is created to
 15 read:

16 589.37 Regulation of tree and vegetation trimming or
 17 removal by certain governmental entities prohibited.-

18 (1) The uncontrolled growth of trees or vegetation within
 19 rights-of-way owned or managed by the state, water management
 20 districts, water control districts, neighborhood improvement
 21 districts, independent special districts, or community
 22 development districts interferes with the operation and
 23 maintenance of flood protection and drainage infrastructure,
 24 including but not limited to canals, critical to the protection
 25 of the health, safety, and general welfare of the public.

26 (2) Where the state or a water management district, a water
 27 control district created under chapter 298, a neighborhood
 28 improvement district created under chapter 163, an independent
 29 special district, or a community development district created
 30 under chapter 190, has a duty to maintain any rights-of-way, no
 31 municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the
 32 state may prohibit, restrict, condition, or require a permit,
 33 fee, or mitigation for the trimming or removal of trees or
 34 vegetation.

35 (3) This section shall not prohibit the licensing and
 36 regulation by municipalities or counties of persons engaged in
 37 tree or vegetation trimming or removal.

38 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.