A bill to be entitled
An act relating to legal rights of the natural
environment; amending s. 403.412, F.S.; repealing
provisions prohibiting local governments from
recognizing or granting certain legal rights to the
natural environment or granting such rights relating
to the natural environment to a person or political
subdivision; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 403.412, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

403.412  Environmental Protection Act.—
(9)(a) A local government regulation, ordinance, code,
rule, comprehensive plan, charter, or any other provision of law
may not recognize or grant any legal rights to a plant, an
animal, a body of water, or any other part of the natural
environment that is not a person or political subdivision as
defined in s. 1.01(8) or grant such person or political
subdivision any specific rights relating to the natural
environment not otherwise authorized in general law or
specifically granted in the State Constitution.

(b) This subsection does not limit the power of an
adversely affected party to challenge the consistency of a
development order with a comprehensive plan as provided in s. 163.3215 or to file an action for injunctive relief to enforce the terms of a development agreement or challenge compliance of the agreement as provided in s. 163.3243.

(c) This subsection does not limit the standing of the Department of Legal Affairs, a political subdivision or municipality of the state, or a citizen of the state to maintain an action for injunctive relief as provided in this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.