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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gov. Scott supports counties like Flagler, takes action to protect beach access

July 13, 2018 – Governor Rick Scott on Thursday signed an executive order supporting Flagler County in its efforts to protect beach access throughout coastal Florida.

“Florida beaches belong to all of us, and people from across the world visit Florida because of them – and we’re going to keep it that way,” Scott said in a [news release](#) his office issued on Friday.

Scott’s [executive order](#) has four sections to ensure no new regulations will inhibit beach access by urging agencies “not to adopt any rule restricting public access to any Florida beach that has an established customary use.”

The order also requires the creation of an online reporting tool “for members of the public to report any violations of their right to public beach access.”

Flagler County in June approved an ordinance to preserve beach access along its 18.1 miles of beach in response to House Bill 631 that contained language that would affect all coastal counties except St. Johns and Volusia counties which had customary use ordinances in place well before the creation of the bill.

Had House Bill 631 become law before it was amended, counties like Flagler would have had to preserve public access to the beach through a judicial process. The bill was amended late in the process to allow counties write into law ordinances before to establish customary use by July 1.

Flagler County held public hearings, took testimony, and otherwise researched local history as evidence the county never restricted access to the beach.

“We are very pleased Gov. Scott signed this executive order,” said Commission Chair Greg Hansen. “It would have been terrible for our residents, and for tourism in Flagler County.

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David Sullivan
District 3

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