10-806A-98

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to water management districts; creating s. 373.0835, F.S.; creating the 3 4 Independent Public Fiscal Office to provide 5 fiscal oversight of each water management district on behalf of the people of the state; 6 7 providing protection for employees of the water management districts and independent 8 9 contractors; providing an effective date. 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 11 12 Section 1. Section 373.0835, Florida Statutes, is 13 14 created to read: 373.0835 Independent Public Fiscal Office. --15 (1) There is created the Independent Public Fiscal 16 17 Office as part of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee. It is the duty of the office to provide fiscal oversight of each 18 19 water management district on behalf of the people of the state. The fiscal staff employed by the office shall work with 20 21 the employees of the water management districts, analyze the 22 programs and expenditures of each district, examine all internal audit reports, and make recommendations to the 23 governing board of each district about programs and 24 25 expenditures that are unnecessary or exceed the district's 26 authority as delegated by the Legislature. 27 (2) The committee shall employ staff to work in the 28 main administrative office of each water management district 29 as follows: 30 (a) South Florida Water Management District, two full-time employees.

1	(b) Southwest Florida Water Management District, two
2	full-time employees.
3	(c) Northwest Florida Water Management District, one
4	full-time employee.
5	(d) Suwannee River Water Management District, one
6	full-time employee.
7	(e) St. Johns River Water Management District, one
8	full-time employee.
9	(3) Water management districts and independent
10	contractors for the districts are prohibited from taking
11	retaliatory action against any employee who discloses
12	information to an employee of the Independent Public Fiscal
13	Office about any program or expenditure that is unnecessary or
14	exceeds the water management district's authority as delegated
15	by the Legislature.
16	Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
17	law.
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20	SENATE SUMMARY
21	Creates the Independent Public Fiscal Office in the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee to provide fiscal
22	oversight of each water management district. Directs the committee to employ staff to work in each district.
23	Provides protection from retaliation for district employees who provide information to fiscal office
24	employees.
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