

By Senator Laurent

17-1785A-98

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to water management districts;
3 amending s. 373.536, F.S.; providing that the
4 Legislature shall adopt or modify program
5 priorities for water management district
6 budgets; providing that the districts shall
7 incorporate these program priorities in
8 developing their budgets; providing that the
9 Executive Office of the Governor shall
10 determine whether each district's budget is
11 consistent with the applicable program
12 priorities; providing that the Executive Office
13 of the Governor shall disapprove those portions
14 of a water management district's budget that
15 are determined to be inconsistent with
16 applicable program priorities; providing an
17 effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 373.536,
22 Florida Statutes, to read:

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373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

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25 (6)(a) For water management district fiscal year
26 1999-2000 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Legislature
27 shall statutorily adopt or modify program priorities for water
28 management district budgets. The program priorities may vary
29 for each district and shall be based on the statutorily
30 mandated programs and activities of the districts and the
31 particular needs within each district in the four areas of
responsibility as listed in paragraph (5)(a).

1 (b) Beginning in fiscal year 1999-2000, and annually
2 thereafter, each water management district shall incorporate
3 the applicable program priorities in the development of its
4 budget.

5 (c) As part of its review of water management district
6 budgets pursuant to this section, the Executive Office of the
7 Governor shall determine whether each district's budget is
8 consistent with the applicable program priorities. In
9 determining whether a district's budget is consistent with the
10 applicable program priorities, the Executive Office of the
11 Governor shall consider comments on or objections to the
12 proposed budget by the public and members of the Legislature,
13 including comments and objections submitted by the chairs of
14 the House and Senate appropriations committees pursuant to
15 paragraph (5)(d); and the district's need to address natural
16 disasters, other unforeseen circumstances, or issues of
17 substantial concern to the citizens of the region. By
18 September 15, 1999, and annually thereafter, the Executive
19 Office of the Governor shall notify in writing the President
20 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
21 and the chairs of the substantive and fiscal committees having
22 jurisdiction over water management district activities as to
23 all determinations made pursuant to this subsection.

24 (d) Based on the authority granted the Executive
25 Office of the Governor to approve or disapprove, in whole or
26 in part, the budget of each water management district in
27 paragraph (5)(a), and in accordance with the specific
28 processes outlined in paragraph (5)(b), the Executive Office
29 of the Governor shall disapprove those portions of a water
30 management district's budget that it determines, under
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1 paragraph (6)(c), are inconsistent with the applicable program
2 priorities.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 31,
4 1998.

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7 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

8 Revises the procedures and requirements for review and
9 approval of water management district budgets, effective
beginning in fiscal year 1999-2000.

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