

Amendment No. 1 (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

Representative(s) Kelly offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove from the bill: Everything after the enacting clause  
and insert in lieu thereof:

WHEREAS, Lake Panasoffkee is a waterbody of historic, hydrologic, and ecological significance, and

WHEREAS, Lake Panasoffkee is a major tributary to the Withlacoochee River, and

WHEREAS, Lake Panasoffkee is plagued by fluctuating water levels and sedimentation and excessive growth of aquatic plants, which are degrading its water quality and recreational values and adversely affecting the Withlacoochee River, and

WHEREAS, Lake Panasoffkee continues to provide wildlife habitat for fish, birds, and game, and offers recreational opportunities for the residents of Sumter County and Central Florida and visitors to the area, despite its current problems, and

WHEREAS, the economic potential of Lake Panasoffkee has

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1 yet to be tapped, and

2 WHEREAS, the Southwest Water Management District, in  
3 cooperation with several state, regional, and local entities,  
4 has developed proposals to restore Lake Panasoffkee, NOW,  
5 THEREFORE,

6

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

8

9 Section 1. Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council--There  
10 is created within the Southwest Florida Water Management  
11 District the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council.

12 (1)(a) The council shall consist of seven voting  
13 members: two representatives of lakefront property owners, one  
14 environmental engineer, one person with training in biology or  
15 another scientific discipline, one person with training as an  
16 attorney, one person with training as an engineer, and one  
17 representative of the sport fishing industry, all to be  
18 appointed by the Sumter County Commission. No person serving  
19 on the council may be appointed to any of the council advisory  
20 group agencies' councils, board, or commission. The council  
21 members shall serve as advisors to the governing board of the  
22 Southwest Florida Water Management District. The council is  
23 subject to the provisions of chapter 119 and chapter 120,  
24 Florida Statutes.

25 (b) The council advisory group to the council shall  
26 consist of: one representative each from the Southwest Florida  
27 Water Management District, the Florida Department of  
28 Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of  
29 Transportation, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish  
30 Commission, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, and the  
31 United States Army Corps of Engineers, to be appointed by

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1 their respective agencies, all of whom must have training in  
2 biology or another scientific discipline.

3 (2) Immediately after their appointment, the council  
4 shall meet and organize by electing a chair, a vice chair, and  
5 a secretary, whose terms shall be for 2 years each. Council  
6 officers shall not serve consecutive terms. Each council  
7 member shall be a voting member.

8 (3) The council shall meet at the call of its chair,  
9 at the request of six of its members, or at the request of the  
10 chair of the governing board of the Southwest Florida Water  
11 Management District.

12 (4) The council shall have the powers and duties to:

13 (a) Review audits and all data specifically related to  
14 lake restoration techniques and sport fish population recovery  
15 strategies, including data and strategies for shoreline  
16 restoration, sediment control and removal, exotic species  
17 management, floating tussock management or removal,  
18 navigation, water quality, and fisheries habitat improvement,  
19 particularly as they may apply to Lake Panasoffkee.

20 (b) Evaluate whether additional studies are needed.

21 (c) Explore all possible sources of funding to conduct  
22 the restoration activities.

23 (d) Advise the governing board of the Southwest  
24 Florida Water management District regarding the best approach  
25 to restoring Lake Panasoffkee, and make a recommendation as to  
26 which techniques should be part of the restoration program.

27 The governing board of the Southwest Florida Water Management  
28 District shall respond in writing to the council if any  
29 recommendations from the council require re-evaluation. The  
30 response shall detail reasons for re-evaluation.

31 (e) Report to the Legislature before November 25 of

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1 each year on the progress of the Lake Panasoffkee restoration  
2 plan and any recommendations for the next fiscal year.

3 (5) The Southwest Florida Water Management District  
4 shall provide staff to assist the council in carrying out the  
5 provisions of this act.

6 (6) Members of the council shall receive no  
7 compensation for their services, but are entitled to be  
8 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses incurred during  
9 execution of their official duties, as provided in section  
10 112.061, Florida Statutes. State and federal agencies shall be  
11 responsible for the per diem and travel expenses of their  
12 respective appointees to the council and the Southwest Florida  
13 Water Management District shall be responsible for per diem  
14 and travel expenses of other appointees to the council.

15 Section 2. Lake Panasoffkee restoration program.--

16 (1) The Southwest Florida Water Management District,  
17 in conjunction with the Department of Environmental  
18 Protection, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission,  
19 the Sumter County Commission, and the Lake Panasoffkee  
20 Restoration Council, shall review existing restoration  
21 proposals to determine which ones are the most environmentally  
22 sound and economically feasible methods of improving the  
23 fisheries and natural systems of Lake Panasoffkee.

24 (2) The Southwest Florida Water Management District,  
25 in consultation and by agreement with the Department of  
26 Environmental Protection, the Game and Fresh Water Fish  
27 Commission, and pertinent local governments, shall develop  
28 tasks to be undertaken by those entities necessary to initiate  
29 the Lake Panasoffkee restoration program recommended by the  
30 Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council. These agencies shall:

31 (a) Evaluate different methodologies for removing the

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1 extensive tussocks and build up of organic matter along the  
2 shoreline and of the aquatic vegetation in the lake; and  
3 (b) Conduct any additional studies as recommended by  
4 the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council.  
5 (3) Contingent on the Legislature appropriating funds  
6 for the Lake Panasoffkee restoration program and in  
7 conjunction with financial participation by federal, other  
8 state, and local governments, the appropriate agencies shall  
9 through competitive bid award contracts to implement the  
10 activities of the Lake Panasoffkee restoration program.

11 Section 3. There is hereby appropriated \$50,000 from  
12 the General Revenue Fund to the Southwest Florida Water  
13 Management District to implement the provisions of this act.

14 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
15 law.

16  
17  
18 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

19 And the title is amended as follows:

20 On page 1, lines 2-17,  
21 remove from the title of the bill: all of said lines

22  
23 and insert in lieu thereof:

24 An act relating to water management; creating  
25 the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council;  
26 providing for its membership, powers, and  
27 duties; requiring the Southwest Florida Water  
28 Management District to provide staff for the  
29 council and to award contracts subject to an  
30 appropriation of funds; providing an effective  
31 date.