

By the Committee on General Government Appropriations and Representative K. Pruitt

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 statutorily adopt or modify
 5 program priorities for water management
 6 district budgets; providing that the districts
 7 shall 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:

23 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--
 24 (6)(a) For water management district fiscal year
 25 1999-2000 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Legislature
 26 shall statutorily adopt or modify program priorities for water
 27 management district budgets. The program priorities may vary
 28 for each district and shall be based on the statutorily
 29 mandated programs and activities of the districts and the
 30 particular needs within each district in the four areas of
 31 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 take into consideration comments on or
12 objections to the proposed budget by the public and members of
13 the Legislature, including comments and objections submitted
14 by the chairs of the House and Senate appropriations
15 committees pursuant to paragraph (5)(d), and the district's
16 need to address natural disasters, other unforeseen
17 circumstances, or issues of substantial concern to the
18 citizens of the region. By September 15, 1999, and annually
19 thereafter, the Executive Office of the Governor shall notify
20 in writing the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives, and the chairs of the substantive
22 and fiscal committees having jurisdiction over water
23 management district activities as to all determinations made
24 pursuant to this subsection.

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

