

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; amending s.
17 373.421, F.S.; allowing for use of Global
18 Positioning Systems in wetlands surveys;
19 providing an effective date.

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

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

25 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

26 (6)(a) For water management district fiscal year
27 1999-2000 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Legislature
28 shall statutorily adopt or modify program priorities for water
29 management district budgets. The program priorities may vary
30 for each district and shall be based on the statutorily
31 mandated programs and activities of the districts and the

1 particular needs within each district in the four areas of
2 responsibility as listed in paragraph (5)(a).

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

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

27 (d) Based on the authority granted the Executive
28 Office of the Governor to approve or disapprove, in whole or
29 in part, the budget of each water management district in
30 paragraph (5)(a), and in accordance with the specific
31 processes outlined in paragraph (5)(b), the Executive Office

1 of the Governor shall disapprove those portions of a water
2 management district's budget that it determines, under
3 paragraph (c), are inconsistent with the applicable program
4 priorities.

5 Section 2. Subsection (8) of Section 373.421, Florida
6 Statutes, is created to read:

7 373.421 Delineation methods; formal determinations.--

8 Whenever a survey or certified survey of delineated
9 wetland boundaries is required for any purpose pursuant to
10 this chapter, the survey may be performed by conventional
11 methods of land surveying or by use of a Global Positioning
12 System (GPS). When a GPS is used in the survey, the equipment
13 must provide for submeter or less accuracy and be operated by
14 or under the supervision of a registered land surveyor
15 licensed in the State of Florida, or by an individual
16 specifically trained in the use of the make, type and model of
17 the GPS equipment being employed. Presence of the registered
18 surveyor's seal and signature shall constitute proof that the
19 survey was conducted by or under the supervision of a
20 registered land surveyor licensed in Florida. A GPS survey of
21 wetland boundaries which has been conducted in accordance with
22 this section shall not be considered an approximate wetland
23 delineation under rules promulgated pursuant to Section
24 373.421(2).

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 31,
26 1998.