Florida House of Representatives - 1997 By Representative Laurent

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to water resources; amending s.
3	373.016, F.S.; revising legislative policy;
4	providing construction and application;
5	creating s. 373.0421, F.S.; requiring certain
6	considerations in establishment and
7	implementation of minimum flows and levels;
8	providing for implementation of recovery or
9	prevention strategies; amending s. 373.0693,
10	F.S.; correcting a cross reference; amending s.
11	373.073, F.S.; revising procedure for
12	appointment of members to the water management
13	district governing boards; providing a
14	timetable; amending s. 373.079, F.S.; revising
15	procedure for appointment of district executive
16	directors; providing respective authority of
17	the Governor and governing boards; authorizing
18	employment of governing board ombudsmen;
19	revising duties of governing board legal staff;
20	creating s. 373.0831, F.S.; specifying
21	governing board responsibilities for
22	development of water resources; amending s.
23	373.223, F.S.; providing a requirement in
24	considering authorization to transport ground
25	or surface water under a permit for consumptive
26	use of water; amending s. 373.236, F.S.;
27	revising provisions relating to duration of
28	consumptive use permits; requiring compliance
29	reports and permit modification, under certain
30	circumstances; amending s. 373.507, F.S.;
31	revising provisions relating to district and
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1 basin audits, budgets, and expense reports; 2 requiring districts to furnish copies of 3 documents to specified entities and to respond to comments; amending s. 373.536, F.S.; 4 5 providing requirements for notice and advertisement of district budget hearings and 6 7 workshops; providing requirements for budget identification of administrative and operating 8 9 expenses; revising requirements for submittal 10 of tentative budgets; repealing s. 373.0735, F.S., relating to appointment of members to the 11 12 governing board of the Southwest Florida Water 13 Management District; providing effective dates. 14 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 16 17 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 373.016, Florida 18 Statutes, is amended to read: 19 373.016 Declaration of policy.--(2) It is further declared to be the policy of the 20 21 Legislature: 22 (a) To provide for the management of water and related 23 land resources; 24 (b) To promote the conservation, replenishment, 25 recapture, enhancement, development, and proper utilization of 26 surface and ground water; 27 (c) To develop and regulate dams, impoundments, 28 reservoirs, and other works and to provide water storage for 29 beneficial purposes; 30 31 2

1 (d) To promote the availability of sufficient water 2 for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and the 3 environment; 4 (e)(d) To prevent damage from floods, soil erosion, 5 and excessive drainage; 6 (f)(e) To minimize degradation of water resources 7 caused by the discharge of stormwater; 8 (g)(f) To preserve natural resources, fish, and 9 wildlife; 10 (h) (g) To promote the public policy set forth in s. 403.021; 11 12 (i)(h) To promote recreational development, protect 13 public lands, and assist in maintaining the navigability of 14 rivers and harbors; and 15 (j)(i) Otherwise to promote the health, safety, and 16 general welfare of the people of this state. 17 18 In implementing this chapter, the department and the governing 19 board shall construe and apply the policies in this subsection 20 as a whole, and no specific policy is to be construed or 21 applied in isolation from the other policies in this 22 subsection. 23 Section 2. Section 373.0421, Florida Statutes, is 24 created to read: 25 373.0421 Establishment and implementation of minimum 26 flows and levels.--27 (1) When establishing minimum flows and levels 28 pursuant to s. 373.042, the department or governing board 29 shall consider changes and structural alterations to watersheds, surface waters, and aquifers and the effects such 30 31 changes or alterations have had, and the constraints such 3

1 changes or alterations have placed, on the hydrology of an affected watercourse, surface water body, or groundwaters. 2 3 (2) If the existing flow or level in a water body is below, or is projected to fall below, the applicable minimum 4 5 flow or level established pursuant to s. 373.042, the 6 department or governing board shall implement a recovery or 7 prevention strategy, which includes the development of 8 additional water supplies and other actions, consistent with 9 the authority granted by this chapter, to: 10 (a) Achieve recovery to the established minimum flow or level as soon as practicable; or 11 12 (b) Prevent the existing flow or level from falling 13 below the established minimum flow or level. 14 15 The recovery or prevention strategy shall include phasing or a 16 timetable that will allow the development of sufficient water 17 supplies for all existing and projected reasonable-beneficial 18 uses, including new traditional or alternative water supplies, 19 and implementation of conservation and other efficiency 20 measures, concurrent with any reductions in permitted 21 withdrawals. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to 22 limit or require reductions in permitted water use. 23 (3) The provisions of this section are supplemental to any other specific requirements or authority provided by law. 24 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or require 25 26 water resource restoration. 27 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 28 373.0693, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 29 373.0693 Basins; basin boards.--30 (8)(a) At 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 1988, the area 31 transferred from the Southwest Florida Water Management

District to the St. Johns River Water Management District by 1 change of boundaries pursuant to chapter 76-243, Laws of 2 Florida, shall cease to be a subdistrict or basin of the St. 3 Johns River Water Management District known as the Oklawaha 4 River Basin and said Oklawaha River Basin shall cease to 5 6 exist. However, any recognition of an Oklawaha River Basin or 7 an Oklawaha River Hydrologic Basin for regulatory purposes 8 shall be unaffected. The area formerly known as the Oklawaha 9 River Basin shall continue to be part of the St. Johns River Water Management District. There shall be established by the 10 governing board of the St. Johns River Water Management 11 District the Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council to receive 12 13 public input and advise the St. Johns River Water Management 14 District's governing board on water management issues 15 affecting the Oklawaha River Basin. The Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council shall be appointed by action of the St. Johns 16 17 River Water Management District's governing board and shall 18 include one representative from each county which is wholly or 19 partly included in the Oklawaha River Basin. The St. Johns River Water Management District's governing board member 20 currently serving pursuant to s. 373.073(2)(c)3. 21 22 373.073(1)(b)3.c., shall serve as chair of the Oklawaha River 23 Basin Advisory Council. Members of the Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council shall receive no compensation for their 24 25 services but are entitled to be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. 26 27 Section 4. Section 373.073, Florida Statutes, is 28 amended to read: 29 373.073 Governing board.--

30 (1)(a) The governing board of each water management 31 district shall be composed of 9 members who shall reside

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within the district, except that the Southwest Florida Water 1 Management District shall be composed of 11 members who shall 2 reside within the district. Members of the governing boards 3 shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by 4 5 the Senate at the next regular session of the Legislature, and 6 the refusal or failure of the Senate to confirm an appointment 7 creates a vacancy in the office to which the appointment was 8 made. The term of office for a governing board member is 4 9 years and commences on March 2 of the year in which the 10 appointment is made and terminates on March 1 of the 4th calendar year of the term. Terms of office of governing board 11 members shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and 12 13 continuity in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize disruption in district operations. The term of 14 15 office of members of the board shall be 4 years and shall be construed to commence on March 2 preceding the date of 16 17 appointment and to terminate March 1 of the year of the end of 18 a term. Members of the governing boards continued under this 19 chapter shall be appointed from the district at large as 20 vacancies occur on the governing boards. Such vacancies shall 21 be filled according to the residency requirements of paragraph 22 (b). 23 (b) Commencing January 1, 1999, the Governor shall appoint the following number of governing board members in 24 25 each year of the Governor's 4-year term of office: 26 1. In the first year of the Governor's term of office, 27 the Governor shall appoint three members to the governing 28 board of each district. 29 2. In the second year of the Governor's term of 30 office, the Governor shall appoint three members of the 31 governing board to the Southwest Florida Water Management 6

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1 District and two members to the governing board of each other 2 district. 3. In the third year of the Governor's term of office, 3 4 the Governor shall appoint three members to the governing 5 board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and 6 two members to the governing board of each other district. 7 4. In the fourth year of the Governor's term of 8 office, the Governor shall appoint two members to the 9 governing board of each district. 10 For any governing board vacancy that occurs before the date 11 scheduled for the office to be filled under this paragraph, 12 13 the Governor shall appoint a person meeting residency requirements of subsection (2) for a term that will expire on 14 15 the date scheduled for the term of that office to terminate under this subsection. In addition to the residency 16 17 requirements for the governing boards as provided by 18 subsection (2), the Governor shall consider appointing 19 governing board members to represent an equitable 20 cross-section of regional interests and technical expertise. 21 (2)(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other 22 general or special law to the contrary, vacancies in the 23 governing boards of the water management districts shall be filled according to the following residency requirements, 24 25 representing areas designated by the United States Water 26 Resources Council in United States Geological Survey, River 27 Basin and Hydrological Unit Map of Florida--1975, Map Series 2.8 No. 72: 29 (a)1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 30 1.a. One member shall reside in the area generally 31 designated as the "Perdido River Basin-Perdido Bay Coastal 7

Area-Lower Conecuh River-Escambia River Basin" hydrologic
 units and that portion of the "Escambia Bay Coastal Area"
 hydrologic unit which lies west of Pensacola Bay and Escambia
 Bay.

5 <u>2.b.</u> One member shall reside in the area generally 6 designated as the "Blackwater River Basin-Yellow River 7 Basin-Choctawhatchee Bay Coastal Area" hydrologic units and 8 that portion of the "Escambia Bay Coastal Area" hydrologic 9 unit which lies east of Pensacola Bay and Escambia Bay.

10 <u>3.c.</u> One member shall reside in the area generally 11 designated as the "Choctawhatchee River Basin-St. Andrews Bay 12 Coastal Area" hydrologic units.

<u>4.d.</u> One member shall reside in the area generally
 designated as the "Lower Chattahoochee-Apalachicola
 River-Chipola River Basin-Coastal Area between Ochlockonee
 River Apalachicola Rivers-Apalachicola Bay coastal area and
 offshore islands" hydrologic units.

18 <u>5.e.</u> One member shall reside in the area generally 19 designated as the "Ochlockonee River Basin-St. Marks and 20 Wakulla Rivers and coastal area between Aucilla and 21 Ochlockonee River Basin" hydrologic units.

22 <u>6.f.</u> Four members shall be appointed at large, except
23 that no county shall have more than two members on the
24 governing board.

25 (b)². Suwannee River Water Management District:
 26 <u>1.a.</u> One member shall reside in the area generally
 27 designated as the "Aucilla River Basin" hydrologic unit.

28 <u>2.b.</u> One member shall reside in the area generally 29 designated as the "Coastal Area between Suwannee and Aucilla 30 Rivers" hydrologic unit.

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1 3.c. One member shall reside in the area generally designated as the "Withlacoochee River Basin-Alapaha River 2 3 Basin-Suwannee River Basin above the Withlacoochee River" hydrologic units. 4 5 4.d. One member shall reside in the area generally 6 designated as the "Suwannee River Basin below the 7 Withlacoochee River excluding the Santa Fe River Basin" 8 hydrologic unit. 9 5.e. One member shall reside in the area generally 10 designated as the "Santa Fe Basin-Waccasassa River and coastal area between Withlacoochee and Suwannee River" hydrologic 11 12 units. 13 6.f. Four members shall be appointed at large, except 14 that no county shall have more than two members on the 15 governing board. (c)3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 16 17 1.a. One member shall reside in the area generally 18 designated as the "St. Mary River Basin-Coastal area between 19 St. Marys and St. Johns Rivers" hydrologic units. 20 2.b. One member shall reside in the area generally 21 designated as the "St. Johns River Basin below Oklawaha 22 River-Coastal area between the St. Johns River and Ponce de 23 Leon Inlet" hydrologic units. 24 3.c. One member shall reside in the area generally 25 designated as the "Oklawaha River Basin" hydrologic unit. 26 4.d. One member shall reside in the area generally 27 designated as the "St. Johns River Basin above the Oklawaha 28 River" hydrologic unit. 29 5.e. One member shall reside in the area generally 30 designated as the "Coastal area between Ponce de Leon Inlet 31

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and Sebastian Inlet-Coastal area Sebastian Inlet to St. Lucie 1 River" hydrologic units. 2 3 6.f. Four members shall be appointed at large, except 4 that no county shall have more than two members on the 5 governing board. 6 (d)4. South Florida Water Management District: 7 1.a. Two members shall reside in Dade County. 8 2.b. One member shall reside in Broward County. 9 3.c. One member shall reside in Palm Beach County. 10 4.d. One member shall reside in Collier County, Lee County, Hendry County, or Charlotte County. 11 5.e. One member shall reside in Glades County, 12 13 Okeechobee County, Highlands County, Polk County, Orange 14 County, or Osceola County. 15 6.f. Two members, appointed at large, shall reside in an area consisting of St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, 16 17 Dade, and Monroe Counties. 18 7.g. One member, appointed at large, shall reside in an area consisting of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades, 19 20 Osceola, Okeechobee, Polk, Highlands, and Orange Counties. 21 8.h. No county shall have more than three members on 22 the governing board. 23 (e)5. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 24 1.a. Two members shall reside in Hillsborough County. 25 2.b. One member shall reside in the area consisting of 26 Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. 27 3.c. Two members shall reside in Pinellas County. 28 4.d. One member shall reside in Manatee County. 5.c. One member shall reside in Polk County. 29 30 6.f. One member shall reside in Pasco County. 31

1 7.g. One member shall be appointed at large from Levy, Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Hernando, and Lake Counties. 2 3 8.h. One member shall be appointed at large from Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, Charlotte, and Highlands Counties. 4 5 9.i. One member shall be appointed at large from Levy, 6 Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Hernando, Lake, Sarasota, Hardee, 7 DeSoto, Charlotte, and Highlands Counties. 8 9 No county described in subparagraph 7., subparagraph 8., or 10 subparagraph 9. sub-subparagraphs g., h., or i. shall have more than one member on the governing board. 11 12 (2) Members of the governing boards shall be appointed 13 by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate at the next regular session of the Legislature, and the refusal or 14 15 failure of the Senate to confirm an appointment shall create a vacancy in the office to which the appointment was made. 16 17 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and 18 subsection (5) of section 373.079, Florida Statutes, are 19 amended to read: 373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office; 20 21 staff.--22 (4)(a) From among three recommendations by the 23 governing board, the Governor shall appoint an executive director. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure 24 of the Governor and is responsible for communicating regularly 25 26 with the governing board, the department, and the Governor regarding water resources issues. The initial appointment of 27 28 an executive director must be confirmed by the Senate. The 29 governing board of the district is authorized to direct the 30 daily activities of the executive director and to employ an 31 ombudsman executive director and such engineers, other

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professional persons, and other personnel and assistants as it 1 deems necessary and under such terms and conditions as it may 2 3 determine and to terminate such employment. In the case of the executive director, the governing board may recommend 4 5 termination to the Governor. The appointment of an executive 6 director must be initially confirmed by the Florida Senate. 7 The governing board may delegate all or part of its authority 8 under this paragraph to the executive director. 9 (5) The governing board may employ a legal staff for 10 the purposes of: (a) Providing legal counsel to the governing board on 11 matters relating to the exercise of its powers and duties and 12 13 to the executive director and district staff on matters relating to the day-to-day operations of the district; 14 15 (b) Representing it in all proceedings of an 16 administrative or judicial nature; and 17 (c) Otherwise assisting in the administration of the 18 provisions of this chapter. 19 20 Attorneys employed by the district must represent the legal 21 interest or position of the governing board. Section 6. Section 373.0831, Florida Statutes, is 22 23 created to read: 373.0831 Water resources development; responsibilities 24 of governing boards. -- In order to ensure sufficient water is 25 26 available for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial 27 uses and the environment, and to avoid the adverse effects of 28 competition for water supplies, the governing board shall have 29 the following responsibilities for water resources 30 development: 31

1	(1) Formulate and implement regional water resources
2	development strategies and programs.
3	(2) Collect data and conduct research as necessary to
4	improve the use of surface and ground water resources for
5	water supply purposes.
6	(3) Implement nonstructural programs to protect and
7	manage water resources.
8	(4) Provide for the construction, operation, and
9	maintenance of major public works facilities for
10	replenishment, recapture, storage, and enhancement of the
11	surface and ground water resources of the district.
12	(5) Encourage and promote the development of new
13	technology, including demonstration projects, to maximize the
14	reasonable-beneficial use of surface and ground water
15	resources consistent with law.
16	(6) Cooperate with and assist public and private
17	utilities, regional water supply authorities, and public
18	service corporations in the development of water supply
19	delivery systems.
20	Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 373.223, Florida
21	Statutes, is amended to read:
22	373.223 Conditions for a permit
23	(2) The governing board or the department may
24	authorize the holder of a use permit to transport and use
25	ground or surface water beyond overlying land, across county
26	boundaries, or outside the watershed from which it is taken if
27	the governing board or department determines that such
28	transport and use is consistent with the public interest, and
29	no local government shall adopt or enforce any law, ordinance,
30	rule, regulation, or order to the contrary. When evaluating
31	whether such a potential transport of ground or surface water
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is consistent with the public interest, the governing board or 1 2 department shall consider: 3 (a) The proximity of the proposed source of water to 4 the area in which it is to be used or applied. 5 (b) Other environmentally, economically, and 6 technically feasible alternatives to the source being 7 proposed, including, but not limited to, desalination, reuse, 8 stormwater, and aquifer storage and recovery. 9 Section 8. Section 373.236, Florida Statutes, is 10 amended to read: 373.236 Duration of permits.--11 12 (1) Permits shall may be granted for a any period of 13 time not exceeding 20 years if there is sufficient data to 14 provide reasonable assurance that the conditions for permit 15 issuance will be met for the duration of the permit; otherwise permits may be issued for shorter durations which reflect the 16 17 period for which such reasonable assurances can be provided. The governing board or the department may base the duration of 18 19 permits on a reasonable system of classification according to 20 source of supply or type of use, or both. 21 (2) The governing board or the department may 22 authorize a permit of duration of up to 50 years in the case 23 of a municipality or other governmental body or of a public works or public service corporation where such a period is 24 25 required to provide for the retirement of bonds for the 26 construction of waterworks and waste disposal facilities. 27 (3) Where necessary to maintain reasonable assurance 28 that the conditions for permit issuance can continue to be 29 met, the governing board or department may require a 30 compliance report by the permittee every 10 years during the 31 term of a permit. This report shall contain sufficient data 14

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to maintain reasonable assurance that the initial conditions 1 for permit issuance are met. Following review of this report, 2 the governing board or the department may modify the permit to 3 ensure that the use meets the conditions for issuance. Permit 4 5 modifications pursuant to this subsection shall not be subject 6 to competing applications, provided there is no increase in 7 the permitted allocation or permit duration. 8 Section 9. Section 373.507, Florida Statutes, is 9 amended to read: 10 373.507 Districts and basins; postaudits, budgets, basins, and taxing authorities; budget and expense reports; 11 12 audits.--13 (1) Each district and basin referred to in this chapter must shall furnish a detailed copy of its budget and 14 15 past year's expenditures to the Governor, the Legislature, and the governing body of each county in which the district or 16 basin has jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations 17 18 of the district or basin. 19 (2) Each district and basin referred to in this chapter must, basin, and taxing authority shall make provision 20 21 for an annual postaudit of its financial accounts. The 22 postaudit must These postaudits shall be made in accordance 23 with the rules of the Auditor General adopted under promulgated pursuant to ss. 166.241 and 11.47. 24 (3)(a) Each district referred to in this chapter must 25 26 furnish copies of the following documents to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of 27 28 Representatives, the chairs of all legislative committees and subcommittees with substantive or appropriations jurisdiction 29 30 over districts, the secretary of the department, and the 31 governing body of each county in which the district has 15

jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the 1 2 district: 3 1. The tentative budget. 4 2. The adopted budget. 5 3. The past year's expenditures. 6 4. The postaudit described in subsection (2). 7 The documents must be furnished by the earlier of (b) 8 10 days following completion of each document or as otherwise 9 provided by law. 10 (c) If any entity in paragraph (a) provides written comments to the district regarding any document furnished, the 11 district must respond to the comments in writing and furnish 12 13 copies of the comments and written responses to the other 14 entities. 15 Section 10. Subsections (1) and (3), and paragraph (c) 16 of subsection (5), of section 373.536, Florida Statutes, 1996 17 Supplement, are amended to read: 18 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--19 (1) The fiscal year of districts created under the 20 provisions of this chapter shall extend from October 1 of one 21 year through September 30 of the following year. The budget 22 officer of the district shall, on or before July 15 of each 23 year, submit for consideration by the governing board of the district a tentative budget for the district covering its 24 25 proposed operation and requirements for the ensuing fiscal 26 year. Unless alternative notice requirements are otherwise 27 provided by law, notice of all budget hearings conducted by 28 the governing board or district staff must be published in a 29 newspaper of general circulation in each county in which the 30 district lies not less than 5 days nor more than 15 days 31 before the hearing. Budget workshops conducted for the public

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1 and not governed by s. 200.065 must be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation in the community or area in 2 3 which the workshop will occur not less than 5 days nor more than 15 days before the workshop. The tentative budget shall 4 5 be adopted in accordance with the provisions of s. 200.065; 6 however, if the mailing of the notice of proposed property 7 taxes is delayed beyond September 3 in any county in which the district lies, the district shall advertise its intention to 8 9 adopt a tentative budget and millage rate, pursuant to s. 10 200.065(3)(g), in a newspaper of general paid circulation in that county. The budget shall set forth, classified by object 11 and purpose, and by fund if so designated, the proposed 12 13 expenditures of the district for bonds or other debt, for construction, for acquisition of land, for operation and 14 15 maintenance of the district works, for the conduct of the affairs of the district generally, and for other purposes, to 16 17 which may be added an amount to be held as a reserve. District 18 administrative and operating expenses must be identified in 19 the budget and allocated among district activities and 20 programs in proportion to the time, personnel, and resources devoted to the specific activity or program. 21 22 (3) As provided in s. 200.065(2)(d), the board shall 23 publish one or more notices of its intention to finally adopt a budget for the district for the ensuing fiscal year. 24 The 25 notice shall appear adjacent to an advertisement which shall set forth the tentative budget in full. The notice and 26 27 advertisement shall be published in one or more newspapers 28 having a combined general circulation in the counties having 29 land in the district. Districts may include explanatory 30 phrases and examples in budget advertisements published under 31

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1 s. 200.065 to clarify or illustrate the effect that the district budget may have on ad valorem taxes. 2 3 (5) (c) Each water management district shall, by August 1 4 5 5 of each year, submit for review a tentative budget to the 6 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the 7 House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative 8 committees and subcommittees with substantive or 9 appropriations jurisdiction over water management districts, the secretary of the department, and the governing body of 10 each county in which the district has jurisdiction or derives 11 any funds for the operations of the district. The tentative 12 13 budget, which must include to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Executive Office of the Governor, and the 14 15 chairs of the appropriations committees of the Legislature for review a tentative budget that includes, but is not limited 16 17 to, the following information for the preceding fiscal year 18 and the current fiscal year, and the proposed amounts for the 19 upcoming fiscal year, in a standard format prescribed by the 20 Executive Office of the Governor department which is generally 21 consistent with the format prescribed by legislative budget 22 instructions for state agencies and the format requirements of 23 s. 216.031: The millage rates and the percentage increase above 24 1. 25 the rolled-back rate, together with a summary of the reasons the increase is required, and the percentage increase in 26 27 taxable value resulting from new construction; 28 2. For each program area, the salary and benefits, 29 expenses, operating capital outlay, number of authorized 30 positions, and other personal services;

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CODING:Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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1 A description of each new, expanded, reduced, or 3. 2 eliminated program; 3 4. A 5-year capital improvements plan; and 4 The funding sources, including, but not limited to, 5. 5 ad valorem taxes, Surface Water Improvement and Management 6 Program funds, other state funds, federal funds, and user fees 7 and permit fees for each program area. 8 Effective January 1, 1999, section Section 11. 9 373.0735, Florida Statutes, is hereby repealed. 10 Section 12. Except as otherwise provided herein, this 11 act shall take effect October 1, 1997. 12 13 14 HOUSE SUMMARY 15 Provides additional legislative policy relating to water resources, and provides for construction and application of such policy as a whole. Requires consideration of hydrologic effects when establishing minimum flows and levels, and provides for implementation of recovery or 16 17 prevention strategies. Revises procedure for appointment of water management district governing boards. Revises authority of the Governor and governing boards with 18 19 respect to executive directors. Authorizes each governing board to employ an ombudsman. Requires legal staff to provide counsel to the governing board, executive director, and district staff, and to represent the legal interest of the governing board. Specifies responsibilities of the governing boards for water resources development. Specifies considerations in evaluating whether authorizing transport of ground or surface water is in the public interest. Requires issuance of 20-year permits for consumptive use of water when permit conditions are reasonably assured for that duration. Provides for periodic compliance reports and modification of permits, under certain conditions. Revises provisions relating to district and basin audits, budgets, and expense reports, and requires districts to respect to executive directors. Authorizes each governing 20 21 22 23 24 25 2.6 budgets, and expense reports, and requires districts to furnish copies of documents to specified entities and to respond, in writing, to comments. Provides requirements relating to district budgets, hearings thereon, notice 27 28 and advertisements thereof, and tentative budget 29 submittals. See bill for details. 30 31