

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Lake Region Lakes  
3           Management District, Polk County; amending  
4           chapter 8378, Laws of Florida, 1919, as  
5           amended; exempting the district from certain  
6           permitting requirements; providing an effective  
7           date.

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

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11           Section 1. Section 3 of chapter 8378, Laws of Florida,  
12   1919, as amended by section 1 of chapter 90-499, Laws of  
13   Florida, as amended by section 3 of chapter 97-344, Laws of  
14   Florida, is amended to read:

15           Section 3. General Powers and Authority.--

16           (1) The Board of Commissioners is authorized and  
17   empowered:

18           (c) To purchase, lease, sell, exchange or otherwise  
19   acquire or dispose of real property and rights-of-way and to  
20   construct, reconstruct, improve, extend, enlarge, relocate,  
21   equip, operate, repair and maintain such public canals and  
22   drainage canals, dams, locks, canal banks, lake shores, water  
23   control structures, stormwater control and treatment  
24   facilities and other facilities necessary or proper to further  
25   the purposes of this act. However, any such stormwater control  
26   or treatment facility project shall be undertaken only with  
27   the concurrence of the governing body having jurisdiction over  
28   the area involved.

29           (d) To beautify and maintain the rights-of-way, canal  
30   banks and berms, lakes, public lake shores and other property  
31   of the district as may enhance the appearance thereof and be

1 beneficial to the property of the district. To the extent  
2 this work takes place on property owned by private entities or  
3 other public agencies, the prior permissions of such entities  
4 or agencies shall be required.

5 (f) To take those measures necessary for the control  
6 of undesirable aquatic and canal bank plants or pests as  
7 determined by the Board of Commissioners, using best  
8 management practices.

9 (2) The construction and maintenance of canals  
10 connecting and managing the lakes, the development and  
11 maintenance of areas adjoining the lakes and canals within the  
12 district, the construction of stormwater control and treatment  
13 facilities, the construction and operation of water control  
14 structures as needed within canals affecting lakes within the  
15 district, and other works of the district in connection  
16 therewith, are hereby found to be of great importance, benefit  
17 and utility to the inhabitants of the district. The district  
18 is specifically authorized and empowered to exercise the  
19 powers granted under this section outside the geographical  
20 limits of the district, but within the drainage basins  
21 containing the lakes within the district, when such exercise  
22 is necessary or convenient to further the purposes of the  
23 district and upon the concurrence of the governing body having  
24 jurisdiction over the area involved.

25 (3) In furtherance of the purposes provided in  
26 subsections (1) and (2), the district is exempt from the  
27 permitting requirements of chapter 373, part IV, Florida  
28 Statutes, to the extent described in this subsection. The  
29 district is not required to obtain a permit to:

30 (a) Install for lake-level-management purposes up to  
31 two 24-inch pipes or their equivalent, which are incorporated

1 with a water control structure, and are operated based on a  
2 water management district's adopted lake-levels program which  
3 was created pursuant to chapter 373, F.S.

4 (b) Remove pipes, crossovers, or other restrictions  
5 located within a ditch if such items are too small for or  
6 restrict the flow of water in a ditch.

7 (c) Add pipes or change the inverts of pipes located  
8 in ditch crossovers when existing crossovers restrict the flow  
9 of water in an existing ditch.

10  
11 The Lake Region Lakes Management District shall notify the  
12 Southwest Florida Water Management District when it undertakes  
13 project activities which qualify for an exemption pursuant to  
14 this subsection. The area within the Lake Region Lakes  
15 Management District that falls under the jurisdiction of the  
16 St. John's River Water Management District is not subject to  
17 the exemption provided in this subsection.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
19 law.