

By Representative Ritchie

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to water management; amending
3 s. 373.503, F.S.; revising the maximum total
4 millage rate for the Northwest Florida Water
5 Management District; requiring a portion of tax
6 proceeds to be used for water quality
7 improvement; providing a contingent date.

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

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11 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 373.503, Florida
12 Statutes, is amended to read:

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373.503 Manner of taxation.--

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(3)(a) The districts may levy ad valorem taxes on
15 property within the district solely for the purposes of this
16 chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, as
17 amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as amended. The
18 authority to levy ad valorem taxes as provided in this act
19 shall commence with the year 1977. However, the taxes levied
20 for 1977 by the governing boards pursuant to this section
21 shall be prorated to ensure that no such taxes will be levied
22 for the first 4 days of the tax year, which days will fall
23 prior to the effective date of the amendment to s. 9(b), Art.
24 VII of the State Constitution, which was approved March 9,
25 1976. When appropriate, taxes levied by each governing board
26 may be separated by the governing board into a millage
27 necessary for the purposes of the district and a millage
28 necessary for financing basin functions specified in s.
29 373.0695. Beginning with the taxing year 1977, and
30 notwithstanding the provisions of any other general or special

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1 law to the contrary, the maximum total millage rate for
2 district and basin purposes shall be:

3 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.50
4 ~~0.05~~ mill.

5 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75
6 mill.

7 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6
8 mill.

9 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0
10 mill.

11 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80
12 mill.

13 (b) The apportionment in the South Florida Water
14 Management District shall be a maximum of 40 percent for
15 district purposes and a maximum of 60 percent for basin
16 purposes, respectively.

17 (c) Within the Southwest Florida Water Management
18 District, the maximum millage assessed for district purposes
19 shall not exceed 50 percent of the total authorized millage
20 when there are one or more basins in the district, and the
21 maximum millage assessed for basin purposes shall not exceed
22 50 percent of the total authorized millage.

23 (d) Within the Northwest Florida Water Management
24 District, at least one-third of the ad valorem tax proceeds
25 collected under this section must be used for the development
26 and implementation of actions to control water pollution and
27 improve water quality.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2001,
29 if the electors of this state approve an amendment to Section
30 9 of Article VII of the State Constitution to remove the ad
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1 valorem tax limit specifically applicable to water management
2 purposes in the northwest portion of the state.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Establishes the maximum statutory millage limit for the Northwest Florida Water Management District, contingent upon an amendment to the State Constitution. Requires that a portion of tax proceeds be used for water quality improvement.