

By Senator Lee

23-1397B-00

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to water supply entities;
3 amending s. 373.196, F.S.; providing
4 legislative findings concerning notice and
5 access to meetings; amending s. 373.1962, F.S.;
6 providing requirements for notice and access to
7 certain meetings; providing an effective 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 (4) is added to section 373.196,
12 Florida Statutes, to read:

13 373.196 Legislative findings.--

14 (4) The member governments of a water supply authority
15 created under s. 373.1962, or a regional water authority or
16 water supply utility created under s. 163.01, must be given
17 reasonable prior meeting notice in writing from the
18 authorities or utilities and are entitled to attend all
19 meetings between the authorities or utilities and the
20 appropriate permitting agency in connection with any permit
21 application filed by the authorities or utilities, as an
22 applicant or co-applicant, or any modification, renewal,
23 revocation, or enforcement proceedings related to a permit
24 held by the authorities or utilities, as a permittee or
25 co-permittee. For purposes of this subsection, a water supply
26 authority or regional water supply utility includes the
27 authority's or utility's board of directors, staff, or
28 consultants, and references to an appropriate permitting
29 agency include the agency's head, staff, or consultants.

30 Section 2. Subsections (10) and (11) are added to
31 section 373.1962, Florida Statutes, to read:

1 373.1962 Regional water supply authorities.--
2 (10) The member governments of a water supply
3 authority created under this section, or a water supply
4 authority or regional water supply utility created under s.
5 163.01, shall be provided with reasonable prior meeting notice
6 in writing from the authorities or utilities and are entitled
7 to attend all meetings between the authorities or utilities
8 and the appropriate permitting agency in connection with any
9 permit application filed by the authorities or utilities, as
10 an applicant or co-applicant, or any modification, renewal,
11 revocation, or enforcement proceedings related to a permit
12 held by the authorities or utilities, as a permittee or
13 co-permittee. For purposes of this subsection, a water supply
14 authority or regional water supply utility includes the
15 authority's or utility's board of directors, staff, or
16 consultants, and references to an appropriate permitting
17 agency include the agency's head, staff, or consultants.
18 (11)(a) The public must be allowed to attend
19 preapplication meetings or other meetings where the water
20 management districts, the department, and the regional water
21 supply authorities or their contracted entities meet to
22 discuss data, regulatory requirements, land-use projections,
23 or other information related to water-supply projects
24 requiring permits under part II or part IV. For purposes of
25 this subsection, the term "contracted entities" means entities
26 that have a contractual agreement with a regional water supply
27 authority to develop, sell, lease, transfer, or otherwise
28 supply water.
29 (b) The meetings may be noticed by the governing board
30 in a newspaper having general circulation within the affected
31 area. In addition, the governing board shall send, by regular

1 mail, a copy of the notice to any person who has filed a
2 written request for notification of any pending applications
3 affecting the particular designated area.

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Requires water supply authorities or utilities to give
9 notice of and access to their meetings with permitting
10 agencies to the member governments of the authorities or
11 utilities. Requires that the public be allowed to attend
12 meetings where the water management districts, the
13 Department of Environmental Protection, and the regional
14 water supply authorities or their contracted entities
15 discuss water-supply projects requiring consumptive use
16 or surface water management and storage permits. Provides
17 notice requirements for the meetings.
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