

Bill No. SB 1408

Amendment No.      Barcode 111428

<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Senator Brown-Waite moved the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment**

Delete everything after the enacting clause

and insert:

Section 1. (1) The Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council.--There is created within the Withlacoochee and Coastal Rivers Basins of the Southwest Florida Water Management District a council to be known as the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council. The council shall be coordinated by representatives of the following agencies: the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The council is subject to the provisions of chapters 119 and 120, Florida Statutes. The lead agency shall be the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(2) Members of the council shall consist of twelve voting members with six appointed by the President of the Senate and six appointed by the Speaker of the House of

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1 Representatives. The council shall consist of representatives  
2 as follows:

- 3 a. Waterfront property owners from each county,
- 4 b. An attorney from each county,
- 5 c. A member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber  
6 of Commerce from each county,
- 7 d. An environmental engineer from each county,
- 8 e. An engineer from each county, and
- 9 f. A person from each county with training in biology  
10 or another scientific discipline.

11 (3) The council members from each county are to form  
12 two separate county task forces from the council to review and  
13 make recommendations on specific waterways. The Hernando  
14 County Task Force shall develop plans for the restoration of  
15 the Weeki Wachee River and Springs. The Citrus County Task  
16 Force shall develop plans for the restoration of the  
17 Tsala-Apopka Chain of Lakes.

18 (4) There shall be a technical advisory group to the  
19 council and the two county task forces which shall consist of  
20 one representative each from the Southwest Florida Water  
21 Management District, the Department of Environmental  
22 Protection, the Department of Transportation, the Fish and  
23 Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Coastal Rivers Basin  
24 Board, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, and the United  
25 States Army Corps of Engineers, each of whom shall be  
26 appointed by his or her respective agency, and each of whom,  
27 with the exception of the representatives from the  
28 Withlacoochee River Basin Board and Coastal Rivers Basin  
29 Board, shall have had training in biology or another  
30 scientific discipline.

31 (5) Immediately after appointment, the council shall

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1 meet and organize by electing a chair, a vice chair, and a  
2 secretary, whose terms shall be for 2 years each. Council  
3 officers shall not serve consecutive terms. Each council  
4 member shall be a voting member. Additionally, the two county  
5 task forces shall elect a chair and a secretary whose terms  
6 shall be for 2 years each.

7 (6) The council or the county task forces shall meet  
8 at the call of its chair, at the request of six of its  
9 members, or at the request of the chair of the governing board  
10 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

11 (7) The council shall have the powers and duties to:

12 (a) Review audits and all data specifically related to  
13 lake and river restoration techniques and sport fish  
14 population recovery strategies, including data and strategies  
15 for shoreline restoration, sand and other sediment control and  
16 removal, exotic species management, floating tussock  
17 management or removal, navigation, water quality, and fish and  
18 wildlife habitat improvement, particularly as they may apply  
19 to the Citrus/Hernando waterways.

20 (b) Evaluate whether additional studies are needed.

21 (c) Explore all possible sources of funding to conduct  
22 the restoration activities.

23 (d) Report to the Speaker of the House of  
24 Representatives and the President of the Senate before  
25 November 25 of each year on the progress of the  
26 Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration program and any  
27 recommendations for the next fiscal year.

28 (8) The Southwest Florida Water Management District  
29 shall provide staff to assist the council in carrying out the  
30 provisions of this act.

31 (9) Members of the council shall receive no

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1 compensation for their services, but are entitled to be  
2 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses incurred during  
3 execution of their official duties, as provided in s. 112.061,  
4 Florida Statutes. State and federal agencies shall be  
5 responsible for the per diem and travel expenses of their  
6 respective appointees to the council, and the Southwest  
7 Florida Water Management District shall be responsible for per  
8 diem and travel expenses of other appointees to the council.

9 Section 2. The Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration  
10 program.--

11 (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and  
12 the Southwest Florida Water Management District, in  
13 conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection,  
14 pertinent local governments, and the Citrus/Hernando Waterways  
15 Restoration Council, shall review existing restoration  
16 proposals to determine which ones are the most environmentally  
17 sound and economically feasible methods of improving the fish  
18 and wildlife habitat and natural systems of the  
19 Citrus/Hernando waterways.

20 (2) To initiate the Citrus/Hernando Waterways  
21 restoration program recommended by the Citrus/Hernando  
22 Waterways Restoration Council, the Fish and Wildlife  
23 Conservation Commission, with assistance from the Southwest  
24 Florida Water Management District and in consultation and by  
25 agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection and  
26 pertinent local governments, shall develop tasks to be  
27 considered by those entities for the enhancement of fish and  
28 wildlife habitat. These agencies shall:

29 (a) Evaluate different methodologies for removing the  
30 extensive tussocks and buildup of organic matter along the  
31 shoreline and of the aquatic vegetation in the lake.

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1           (b) Conduct any additional studies as recommended by  
2 the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council.

3           (3) Contingent on the Legislature's appropriating  
4 funds for the Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration program  
5 and in conjunction with financial participation by federal,  
6 other state, and local governments, the appropriate agencies  
7 shall, through competitive bid, award contracts to implement  
8 the activities of the Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration  
9 program.

10           Section 3. The sum of \$45,000 is appropriated from the  
11 General Revenue Fund to the Southwest Florida Water Management  
12 District for the purpose of paying administrative, per diem,  
13 and travel expenses of the Citrus/Hernando Waterways  
14 Restoration Council.

15           Section 4. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
16 Commission is authorized to conduct a demonstration  
17 restoration project on the Tsala-Apopka Chain of Lakes for the  
18 purpose of removing, with proper permits, overlying  
19 undesirable vegetation and associated organic material down to  
20 mineralized soils, thus allowing for the establishment of a  
21 more desirable aquatic plant community on hard, sandy  
22 substrate and creating better habitat for fish and wildlife.

23           Section 5. The Southwest Florida Water Management  
24 District is authorized to conduct a demonstration restoration  
25 project on the Weeki Wachee River, with proper permits, to  
26 improve the water flow by a sand containment and erosion  
27 control project, including other restoration activities  
28 related to this problem.

29           Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
30 law.

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