

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

The Committee on General Government Appropriations offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove from the bill: Everything after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof:

Section 1. (1) Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council.--There is created within the Withlacoochee and Coastal Rivers Basins of the Southwest Florida Water Management District the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council. The council shall be coordinated by representatives of the 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.

(2) The council shall consist of 12 voting members, six of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and six of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint council

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1 members as follows:

2 1. An attorney from each county.

3 2. A member of the board of directors of the chamber  
4 of commerce from each county.

5 3. An environmental engineer from each county.

6 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
7 appoint council members as follows:

8 1. A waterfront property owner from each county.

9 2. An engineer from each county.

10 3. A person from each county with training in biology  
11 or another scientific discipline.

12 (3) The council members from each county shall form  
13 two separate county task forces from the council to review and  
14 make recommendations on specific waterways within their  
15 respective counties.

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

29 (5) Immediately after appointment, the council shall  
30 meet and organize by electing a chair, a vice chair, and a  
31 secretary, whose terms shall be for 2 years each. Council

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

5 (6) The council or a county task force shall meet at  
6 the call of its chair or at the request of six of its members.

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

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

16 (b) Evaluate whether additional studies are needed.

17 (c) Explore all possible sources of funding to conduct  
18 the restoration activities, including funds provided to any  
19 advisory group agency for restoration purposes.

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

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

28 (9) Members of the council shall receive no  
29 compensation for their services but are entitled to be  
30 reimbursed for the per diem and travel expenses incurred  
31 during execution of their official duties, as provided in s.

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1 112.061, Florida Statutes. State and federal agencies shall be  
2 responsible for the per diem and travel expenses of their  
3 representatives on the technical advisory group, and the  
4 Southwest Florida Water Management District shall be  
5 responsible for per diem and travel expenses of council  
6 members.

7 Section 2. Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration  
8 program.--

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

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

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

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

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

8           Section 3. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
 9 Commission is authorized to conduct a demonstration  
 10 restoration project on the Tsala-Apopka Chain of Lakes for the  
 11 purpose of removing, with proper permits, overlying  
 12 undesirable vegetation and associated organic material down to  
 13 mineralized soils, thus allowing for the establishment of a  
 14 more desirable aquatic plant community on hard, sandy  
 15 substrate and creating better habitat for fish and wildlife.

16           Section 4. The Southwest Florida Water Management  
 17 District is authorized to conduct a demonstration restoration  
 18 project on the Weeki Wachee River with proper permits to  
 19 improve water flow by implementing a sand containment and  
 20 erosion control project. The project may include other  
 21 restoration activities related to improving water flow.

22           Section 5. Except as otherwise provided herein, this  
 23 act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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 26 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

27 And the title is amended as follows:

28           On page 1, line 15  
 29 remove from the title of the bill: "providing  
 30 appropriations;"

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