

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 680

SPONSOR: Natural Resources Committee, Senator Mitchell, and others

SUBJECT: Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs

DATE: January 23, 2002 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Gee	Voigt	NR	Favorable/CS
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill provides a limited exemption from the existing prohibition on fishing in the upper Rainbow River.

This bill amends s. 372.27, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

In 1929, the Legislature prohibited fishing in Silver Springs and the Silver Springs Run in Marion County. It appears that the prohibition was enacted to enhance the tourist-oriented glass bottom boat industry using these waters at that time. In 1935, the Legislature also prohibited fishing in Rainbow Springs and the Rainbow River in Marion County, within a radius of one mile from the head of the springs—apparently for similar reasons.

The statutory prohibitions on fishing in Silver Springs, Silver Springs Run, Rainbow Springs, and the upper Rainbow River are unique; the public fresh waters of Florida are generally open to fishing.

The Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of State Parks operates the Rainbow Springs State Park, which encompasses the entire headwaters of Rainbow Springs and a short section of the Rainbow River. Although no fishing is currently permitted at the park by statute, absent the statutory prohibition, the department advises that it would prohibit fishing by rule as an inappropriate use in the limited geographical area of the state park.

There are approximately 24 private homes on the Rainbow River, within one mile of Rainbow Springs.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 372.27, F.S., is amended to permit fishing in the Rainbow River, except within that portion of the Rainbow Springs State Park lying within a radius of 1700 feet from the head of Rainbow Springs. The bill includes other technical, nonsubstantive, changes for clarification.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.