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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to water resources; creating the 2020
3 Water Study Commission; providing for appointment and
4 qualification of members, providing duties of the
5 commission; providing for public hearings; providing for
6 an executive director and technical advisory committees;
7 requiring reports; providing duties of the Department of
8 Environmental Protection; providing an appropriation;
9 providing an effective date.

10
11 WHEREAS, the management of the water resources of the state
12 is critical to the preservation of Florida's unique natural
13 systems and to the protection of the health and welfare of the
14 people of the state, and

15 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has enacted into law a
16 series of water resource planning and regulatory programs aimed
17 at the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of
18 the state's water resources, and

19 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has also enacted laws to
20 encourage conservation, the efficient use of water, and the
21 development of cost-effective alternative water supply
22 technologies in order to minimize dependence upon historic water
23 supply sources, and

24 WHEREAS, despite these efforts, the future availability of
25 water necessary to maintain the state's natural systems, and to
26 meet the future demands of the state's agricultural and urban
27 areas, remains in question, and

28 WHEREAS, regular evaluation of the Florida Water Plan and
29 district or regional water supply plans, including the
30 alternative water supply development provisions, is necessary to



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31 determine whether state goals are being attained and necessary
32 revisions should be prepared through coordinated action by state
33 and regional agencies and local governments, and

34 WHEREAS, local and regional governments throughout the
35 state repeatedly request funding assistance from the state to
36 address their water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure
37 needs, and

38 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds there is a need to
39 comprehensively consider how the multi-billion dollar water
40 resources infrastructure needs are to be met, in order to
41 preserve and enhance the quality of the state's water resources
42 and protect the health and welfare of the people of the state,
43 NOW, THEREFORE,

44

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

46

47 Section 1. (1) The 2020 Water Study Commission is
48 created. The commission shall be composed of 17 voting members,
49 7 of whom are appointed by the Governor, 5 of whom are appointed
50 by the President of the Senate, and 5 of whom are appointed by
51 the Speaker of the House of Representatives. In addition, the
52 Commissioner of Agriculture, the Secretary of Community Affairs,
53 and the secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection
54 or their designees shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members
55 of the commission. The Governor's appointments must include at
56 least one appointment from each of the following interest
57 groups:

58 (a) Business interests, such as development or real
59 estate.



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60 (b) Agricultural interests, such as farming, forestry,
61 aquaculture, or silvaculture.

62 (c) Environmental interests, such as resource-based
63 conservation and environmental quality or conservation groups.

64 (d) Community representatives, such as citizen groups,
65 not-for-profit community associations, citizen planners, or
66 affordable housing groups.

67 (e) Local and regional governments, such as
68 municipalities, counties, special districts, metropolitan
69 planning organizations, water management districts, or regional
70 planning councils.

71 (f) Water resources management and planning specialists,
72 such as professional planners, attorneys, engineers, or
73 architects.

74
75 The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
76 Representatives shall each select one appointee from five of the
77 six categories listed in paragraphs (a)-(f) and, in addition,
78 shall each appoint two members from their respective chambers of
79 the Legislature to serve on the commission as ex officio
80 nonvoting members. Appointments under this subsection shall be
81 made by July 1, 2003, and the first meeting of the commission
82 shall be held no later than September 1, 2003. The chair of the
83 commission shall be elected from the voting members by the
84 majority of the membership at its first meeting. Any vacancy
85 occurring in the membership of the commission shall be filled in
86 the same manner as the original appointment.

87 (2) Each voting member of the commission is entitled to
88 one vote, and action of the commission requires a two-thirds
89 vote of the members present. However, action of the commission



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90 may be taken only at a meeting at which a majority of the voting
91 commission members are present.

92 (3) The commission shall review the operation and
93 implementation of Florida's water resource management and
94 planning laws, including, but not limited to, chapters 163, 373,
95 and 403, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of formulating
96 specific recommendations relating to the following:

97 (a) The funding for the cleanup of all the water bodies
98 that have been determined by the Department of Environmental
99 Protection pursuant to section 403.067, Florida Statutes, to be
100 impaired;

101 (b) Identification of regulatory and financial incentives
102 to local governments to increase the amount of water utility
103 collection fees dedicated to the implementation of conservation
104 and water-reclamation projects;

105 (c) Simplification and streamlining of permitting
106 processes at both the state and federal levels for alternative
107 water supply technologies;

108 (d) Increased use of water reuse, including resolution of
109 disputes relating to the determination of feasibility of
110 infrastructure financing and development and colocation of power
111 generating facilities;

112 (e) Identification of the appropriate role of the state in
113 assisting local governments in the implementation of alternative
114 water supply projects, including, without limitation, the
115 provision of further financial and technical assistance;

116 (f) Promotion of cost-effective agricultural water
117 conservation practices, including providing long-term funding
118 support for the Urban Irrigation Laboratory Programs; and



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119 (g) Citizen participation in education about and the
120 promotion of water resource protection and conservation
121 programs.

122 (4) At least six public hearings must be held by the
123 commission in different regions of the state to solicit input
124 from the public on how they want the state, regional agencies,
125 and their municipalities and counties to provide for the
126 protection and enhancement of the state's water resources.

127 (5) The commission shall, by February 1, 2004, provide to
128 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
129 Representatives, and the Governor an interim written report of
130 the specific recommendations that may be formulated at that
131 time. A final written report shall be provided to the same
132 officers by February 1, 2005, with recommendations for all the
133 issues identified in paragraphs (3)(a)-(g), including
134 legislative recommendations.

135 (6) The commission may establish and appoint any necessary
136 technical advisory committees. Commission members, and the
137 members of any technical advisory committees that are appointed,
138 shall not receive remuneration for their services, but members
139 other than public officers and employees are entitled to be
140 reimbursed by the Department of Environmental Protection for
141 travel or per diem expenses in accordance with chapter 112,
142 Florida Statutes. Public officers and employees shall be
143 reimbursed by their respective agencies in accordance with
144 chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

145 (7) The commission may select an executive director who
146 shall report to the commission and serve at its pleasure. The
147 Department of Environmental Protection shall provide other staff
148 and consultants after consultation with the commission. Funding



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149 for these expenses shall be provided through the Department of
 150 Environmental Protection.

151 (8) Each commission member may receive per diem and
 152 expenses for travel, as provided in section 112.061, Florida
 153 Statutes, while carrying out official business of the
 154 commission.

155 (9) All agencies under the control of the Governor are
 156 directed, and all other agencies are requested, to render
 157 assistance and cooperation to the commission.

158 (10) The commission shall continue in existence until its
 159 objectives are achieved, but not later than September 1, 2005.

160 Section 2. The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated from the
 161 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Environmental
 162 Protection to implement this act.

163 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.