

By Senator Lawson

6-703-03

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to wetland protection; amending
s. 373.4145, F.S.; providing for an extension
of time for the scheduled repeal of certain
provisions pertaining to the Northwest Florida
Water Management District; deleting certain
obsolete provisions; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) of section
373.4145, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

373.4145 Interim part IV permitting program for the
Northwest Florida Water Management District.--

(6) Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) shall be
repealed effective 12 months after the effective date of a
voter approved amendment to s. 9, Art. VII of the State
Constitution, increasing the authorized millage available to
the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The
Legislature acknowledges the statutorily required plan
prepared by the Northwest Florida Water Management District
and the Department of Environmental Protection in 2003 for
wetland protection, but due to limited financial resources
available at the local and state level in 2003, implementation
of the recommended plan must be postponed until such revenues
become available July 1, 2003.

~~(7)(a) The department and the Northwest Florida Water
Management District are directed to begin developing a plan by
which the permitting for activities proposed in surface waters
and wetlands shall fully comply with the provisions of this~~

1 ~~part, beginning July 1, 2003. The plan also shall address the~~
2 ~~division of environmental resource permitting responsibilities~~
3 ~~between the department and the Northwest Florida Water~~
4 ~~Management District; the methodology of delineating wetlands~~
5 ~~in the Northwest Florida Water Management District; authority~~
6 ~~of the Northwest Florida Water Management District to~~
7 ~~implement federal permitting programs related to activities in~~
8 ~~surface waters and wetlands; and the chapter 70 implications~~
9 ~~of implementing the provisions of this part within the~~
10 ~~jurisdiction of the Northwest Florida Water Management~~
11 ~~District.~~

12 ~~(b) The department and Northwest Florida Water~~
13 ~~Management District shall jointly prepare an interim report on~~
14 ~~their progress in developing the aforementioned plan, to be~~
15 ~~presented March 1, 2001 to the Governor, the President of the~~
16 ~~Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the~~
17 ~~chairs of the relevant substantive and fiscal committees. The~~
18 ~~department and district shall present a final report on March~~
19 ~~1, 2003.~~

20 ~~(c) Any jurisdictional declaratory statement issued~~
21 ~~for a project within the geographic jurisdiction of the~~
22 ~~Northwest Florida Water Management District that is valid on~~
23 ~~July 1, 1999, and for which there has been issued a permit~~
24 ~~pursuant to this chapter and chapter 403 for a phase of that~~
25 ~~project and which identified proposed future development,~~
26 ~~including mitigation, that would require an additional permit~~
27 ~~pursuant to this chapter and chapter 403 shall not expire~~
28 ~~until January 1, 2002.~~

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides an extension of time for the repeal of provisions relating to the Northwest Florida Water Management District.