

HB 1745

2004

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to water management district planning and  
3 reporting; providing legislative findings; directing the  
4 South Florida Water Management District to undertake a  
5 pilot project; providing a new statutory deadline for  
6 certain plans and reports; requiring the South Florida  
7 Water Management District to submit certain reports to the  
8 Governor and the Legislature by a certain date; providing  
9 an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Legislative findings.--The Legislature finds that  
14 plans and reports submitted to the Governor and the Legislature  
15 regarding the status of water management district programs and the  
16 state's water resources are necessary to ensure proper protection  
17 and management of those resources. The Legislature also finds that  
18 such plans and reports should be better coordinated and, in some  
19 cases, consolidated to allow the Governor, the Legislature,  
20 stakeholders, and the public to be better informed about the  
21 management of the state's water resources. Finally, the  
22 Legislature finds that increased access to such information will  
23 enhance accountability and ultimately improve the protection of  
24 the state's water resources.

25 Section 2. Pilot project.--The South Florida Water  
26 Management District shall commence a pilot project to coordinate  
27 and, where appropriate, consolidate legislatively mandated plans  
28 and reports regarding the status of district programs and water  
29 resources within its jurisdiction. The district shall review all

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30 plans and reports required by law to be annually submitted to  
 31 the Governor and the Legislature and determine how to provide  
 32 the same information in a more effective and efficient manner.  
 33 The district shall submit to the Governor, the President of the  
 34 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
 35 February 15, 2005, the information in such annual plans and  
 36 reports due after the effective date of this act through  
 37 February 1, 2005. This submittal date is in lieu of any other  
 38 statutory deadlines required of the South Florida Water  
 39 Management District for various plans and reports through  
 40 February 1, 2005. The district shall submit the information in a  
 41 thorough and effective format, consolidating such plans and  
 42 reports where appropriate. Nothing in this act shall modify the  
 43 requirements of ss. 373.501 and 373.536(5) and (6)(a)1. and 2.,  
 44 Florida Statutes. Unless reauthorized by subsequent legislation,  
 45 this pilot project shall commence on the effective date of this  
 46 act and cease on March 1, 2005.

47       Section 3. Reports.--The South Florida Water Management  
 48 District shall report to the Governor, the President of the  
 49 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
 50 February 15, 2005, on the outcome of its efforts to better  
 51 coordinate and, where appropriate, consolidate its legislatively  
 52 mandated annual plans and reports. Such report shall include any  
 53 statutory changes recommended by the district to achieve better  
 54 coordination and consolidation. Any recommendations regarding  
 55 statutory changes shall incorporate to the greatest extent  
 56 possible suggestions by the other districts and the Department  
 57 of Environmental Protection.

58       Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.