

By Senator Atwater

25-1659A-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to water management district
3 planning and reporting; directing the South
4 Florida Water Management District to undertake
5 a pilot project to consolidate certain plans
6 and reports; providing a temporary new deadline
7 in lieu of statutory deadlines for the
8 submission of certain plans and reports of the
9 district; requiring the district to report to
10 the Governor and the Legislature by a certain
11 date; providing for termination of the project;
12 providing an effective date.

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

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

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30 Section 2. Pilot project.--The South Florida Water
31 Management District shall commence a pilot project to
coordinate and, where appropriate, consolidate legislatively

1 mandated plans and reports regarding the status of district
2 programs and water resources within its jurisdiction. The
3 district shall review all such plans and reports that are
4 required by law to be annually submitted to the Governor and
5 Legislature, and determine how to provide the same information
6 in a more effective and efficient manner. The district shall
7 submit to the Governor and the Legislature by February 15,
8 2005, the information in such annual plans and reports due
9 after the effective date of this act through February 1, 2005.
10 This submittal date is in lieu of any other statutory
11 deadlines required of the district for various plans and
12 reports through February 1, 2005. The district shall submit
13 the information in a thorough and effective format,
14 consolidating such plans and reports where appropriate.
15 However, this section does not modify the requirements of
16 sections 373.501 and 373.536(5) and (6)(a)1.-2., Florida
17 Statutes. Unless reauthorized by subsequent legislation, this
18 pilot project shall commence on the effective date of this act
19 and cease on March 1, 2005.

20 Section 3. Report to the Governor and
21 Legislature.--The South Florida Water Management District
22 shall report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
23 the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 15,
24 2005, on the outcome of its efforts to better coordinate and,
25 where appropriate, consolidate its legislatively mandated
26 annual plans and reports. Such report shall include any
27 statutory changes recommended by the district to achieve
28 better coordination and consolidation. Any recommendations
29 regarding statutory changes shall incorporate to the greatest
30 extent possible suggestions by the other water management
31 districts and the Department of Environmental Protection.

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

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5 SENATE SUMMARY

6 Directs the South Florida Water Management District to
7 conduct and report on a pilot project to consolidate
8 certain legislatively mandated plans and reports.
9 Provides a temporary new deadline for certain plans and
10 reports of the district. Provides for project
11 termination.

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