

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to water management districts; amending s.  
 3           373.503, F.S.; providing that a water management  
 4           district's millage rate is subject to annual authorization  
 5           by the Legislature; requiring the Legislature to annually  
 6           review a water management district's millage rate;  
 7           requiring the Legislature to annually set the amount  
 8           authorized to be raised by each water management district  
 9           from ad valorem taxes; providing 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. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 14           373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (5) is  
 15           renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added  
 16           to said section, to read:

17           373.503 Manner of taxation.--

18           (3)(a) Subject to annual authorization to levy ad valorem  
 19           taxes pursuant to subsection (5), the districts may levy ad  
 20           valorem taxes on property within the district solely for the  
 21           purposes of this chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of  
 22           Florida, as amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as  
 23           amended. The authority to levy ad valorem taxes as provided in  
 24           this act shall commence with the year 1977. However, the taxes  
 25           levied for 1977 by the governing boards pursuant to this section  
 26           shall be prorated to ensure that no such taxes will be levied  
 27           for the first 4 days of the tax year, which days will fall prior  
 28           to the effective date of the amendment to s. 9(b), Art. VII of

29 | the State Constitution, which was approved March 9, 1976. When  
 30 | appropriate, taxes levied by each governing board may be  
 31 | separated by the governing board into a millage necessary for  
 32 | the purposes of the district and a millage necessary for  
 33 | financing basin functions specified in s. 373.0695. ~~Beginning~~  
 34 | ~~with the taxing year 1977, and~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of  
 35 | any other general or special law to the contrary, and subject to  
 36 | annual authorization to levy ad valorem taxes pursuant to  
 37 | subsection (5), the maximum total millage rate for district and  
 38 | basin purposes shall be:

- 39 | 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 40 | 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 41 | 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 42 | 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.
- 43 | 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.

44 | (5) In order to ensure that the taxes authorized by this  
 45 | chapter continue to be in proportion to the benefits derived by  
 46 | the several parcels of real estate within the districts to which  
 47 | territories are annexed and transferred, the Legislature shall  
 48 | annually review the authorized millage rate for each district  
 49 | and annually set the amount authorized to be raised by each  
 50 | district from the taxes authorized by this chapter.

51 | Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2005.