

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Finance & Tax Committee recommends the following:

2  
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to water management districts; amending s.  
7 373.503, F.S.; providing that a water management  
8 district's millage rate is subject to annual authorization  
9 by the Legislature; requiring the Legislature to annually  
10 review a water management district's millage rate;  
11 requiring the Legislature to annually set the amount of  
12 revenue authorized to be raised by each water management  
13 district from ad valorem taxes; providing an effective  
14 date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
19 373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (5) is  
20 renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added  
21 to said section, to read:

22 373.503 Manner of taxation.--

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23           (3)(a) Subject to annual authorization to levy ad valorem  
 24 taxes pursuant to subsection (5), the districts may levy ad  
 25 valorem taxes on property within the district solely for the  
 26 purposes of this chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of  
 27 Florida, as amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as  
 28 amended. The authority to levy ad valorem taxes as provided in  
 29 this act shall commence with the year 1977. However, the taxes  
 30 levied for 1977 by the governing boards pursuant to this section  
 31 shall be prorated to ensure that no such taxes will be levied  
 32 for the first 4 days of the tax year, which days will fall prior  
 33 to the effective date of the amendment to s. 9(b), Art. VII of  
 34 the State Constitution, which was approved March 9, 1976. When  
 35 appropriate, taxes levied by each governing board may be  
 36 separated by the governing board into a millage necessary for  
 37 the purposes of the district and a millage necessary for  
 38 financing basin functions specified in s. 373.0695. ~~Beginning~~  
 39 ~~with the taxing year 1977, and~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of  
 40 any other general or special law to the contrary, and subject to  
 41 annual authorization to levy ad valorem taxes pursuant to  
 42 subsection (5), the maximum total millage rate for district and  
 43 basin purposes shall be:

- 44           1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 45           2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 46           3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 47           4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.
- 48           5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.

49           (5) In order to ensure that the taxes authorized by this  
 50 chapter continue to be in proportion to the benefits derived by

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51 the several parcels of real estate within the districts to which  
52 territories are annexed and transferred, the Legislature shall  
53 annually review the authorized millage rate for each district  
54 and annually set the amount of revenue authorized to be raised  
55 by each district from the taxes authorized by this chapter.

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