Florida Senate - 2005

By Senator Argenziano

3-971A-05

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to water management; creating
3	the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration
4	Council; providing for membership, powers, and
5	duties; providing for separate county task
6	forces; providing for a report to the
7	Legislature; providing for an advisory group to
8	the council; requiring the Southwest Florida
9	Water Management District to act as lead entity
10	for the purpose of providing staff and
11	administrative support for the council;
12	providing for a Citrus/Hernando Waterways
13	restoration program; providing an effective
14	date.
15	
16	WHEREAS, the waterways of Citrus and Hernando Counties
17	are of historic, hydrological, and ecological significance,
18	and
19	WHEREAS, most of these Citrus/Hernando waterways are
20	Outstanding Florida Waterways or are in the application
21	process, and
22	WHEREAS, the Citrus/Hernando waterways are plagued by
23	fluctuating water levels and sedimentation increasing nitrate
24	levels and sand movement causing blockage of natural springs
25	and excessive growth of aquatic plants, which are degrading
26	their water quality and recreational value, and
27	WHEREAS, despite their current problems, the
28	Citrus/Hernando waterways continue to provide wildlife habitat
29	for fish, birds, and game and offer recreational opportunities
30	for the residents of Citrus and Hernando Counties and visitors
31	to the area, and
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1 WHEREAS, the renewable economic potential of the 2 Citrus/Hernando waterways is significant, and 3 WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Water Management 4 District and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, along with other state, regional, and local entities, have 5 6 developed proposals to restore portions of the Citrus/Hernando 7 waterways, NOW, THEREFORE, 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 9 10 Section 1. The Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration 11 12 Council.--13 (1) There is created within the Withlacoochee and Coastal Rivers Basin Boards of the Southwest Florida Water 14 Management District a council to be known as the 15 Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council. The council 16 17 shall be coordinated by representatives of the following agencies: the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the 18 Department of Environmental Protection, and the Southwest 19 Florida Water Management District. The council is subject to 20 21 chapters 119 and 120, Florida Statutes. 22 (2) Members of the council shall consist of 14 voting 23 members with seven appointed by the President of the Senate and seven appointed by the Speaker of the House of 2.4 Representatives. The council shall consist of representatives 25 as follows: 26 27 a. Two waterfront property owners from each county, 2.8 one from the east side of the county and one from the west side of the county. 29 30 b. An attorney from each county. 31

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1	c. A member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber
2	of Commerce from each county.
3	d. An environmental engineer from each county.
4	e. An engineer from each county.
5	f. A person from each county with training in biology
б	or another scientific discipline.
7	(3) The council members from each county shall form
8	two separate county task forces from the council to review and
9	make recommendations on all waterways. The Hernando County
10	Task Force shall develop plans for the restoration of all
11	waterways in Hernando County. The Citrus County Task Force
12	shall develop plans for the restoration of all waterways in
13	<u>Citrus County.</u>
14	(4) There shall be a technical advisory group to the
15	council and the two county task forces which shall consist of
16	one representative each from the Southwest Florida Water
17	Management District, the Department of Environmental
18	Protection, the Department of Transportation, the Fish and
19	Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Coastal Rivers Basin
20	Board, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, the United States
21	Army Corps of Engineers, and the county department of public
22	works, each of whom shall be appointed by his or her
23	respective agency, and each of whom, with the exception of the
24	representatives from the Withlacoochee River Basin Board and
25	<u>Coastal Rivers Basin Board, shall have had training in biology</u>
26	or another scientific discipline.
27	(5) Each member shall be appointed to a 4-year term.
28	Immediately after appointment, the council shall meet and
29	organize by electing a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary,
30	whose terms shall be for 2 years each. Council officers may
31	not serve consecutive terms. Each council member shall be a

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1 voting member. Additionally, the two county task forces shall 2 elect a chair and a secretary whose terms shall be for 2 years 3 each. 4 (6) The council or the county task forces shall meet at the call of its chair, at the request of six of its 5 6 members, or at the request of the chair of the governing board 7 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. 8 (7) The council shall have the powers and duties to: 9 (a) Review audits and all data specifically related to 10 lake and river restoration techniques and sport fish population recovery strategies, including data and strategies 11 12 for shoreline restoration, sand and other sediment control and 13 removal, exotic species management, floating tussock management or removal, navigation, water quality, and fish and 14 wildlife habitat improvement, particularly as they may apply 15 16 to the Citrus/Hernando waterways. 17 (b) Evaluate whether additional studies are needed. 18 (c) Explore all possible sources of funding to conduct the restoration activities. 19 (d) Report to the President of the Senate and the 20 21 Speaker of the House of Representatives before November 25 of 2.2 each year on the progress of the Citrus/Hernando Waterways 23 restoration program and any recommendations for the next 2.4 fiscal year. (8) The Southwest Florida Water Management District 25 shall act as lead entity for the purpose of providing staff 26 27 and administrative support to assist the council in carrying 2.8 out the provisions of this act. (9) Members of the council shall receive no 29 compensation for their services, but are entitled to be 30 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses incurred during 31

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1	execution of their official duties, as provided in section
2	112.061, Florida Statutes. State and federal agencies are
3	responsible for the per diem and travel expenses of their
4	respective appointees to the council and the Southwest Florida
5	Water Management District is responsible for per diem and
6	travel expenses of other appointees to the council.
7	Section 2. The Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration
8	program
9	(1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and
10	the Southwest Florida Water Management District, in
11	conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection,
12	pertinent local governments, and the Citrus/Hernando Waterways
13	Restoration Council, shall review existing restoration
14	proposals to determine which ones are the most environmentally
15	sound and economically feasible methods of improving the fish
16	and wildlife habitat and natural systems of the
17	<u>Citrus/Hernando waterways.</u>
18	(2) To initiate the Citrus/Hernando Waterways
19	restoration program recommended by the Citrus/Hernando
20	Waterways Restoration Council, the Fish and Wildlife
21	Conservation Commission, with assistance from the Southwest
22	Florida Water Management District and in consultation and by
23	agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection and
24	pertinent local governments, shall develop tasks to be
25	considered by those entities for the enhancement of fish and
26	wildlife habitat. These tasks shall include the following:
27	(a) An evaluation of different methodologies for
28	removing the extensive tussocks and buildup of organic matter
29	along the shoreline and of the aquatic vegetation in the lake.
30	(b) The conduct of any additional studies as required
31	by the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council.

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1 (3) Contingent on the Legislature's appropriating 2 funds for the Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration program 3 and in conjunction with financial participation by the Federal 4 Government and other state and local governments, the 5 appropriate agencies shall, through competitive bid, award б contracts to implement the activities of the Citrus/Hernando 7 Waterways restoration program. Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 8 9 law. 10 11 12 SENATE SUMMARY 13 Creates the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council. Provides duties and powers. Creates an advisory group to the council. Establishes the Citrus/Hernando 14 Waterways restoration program and authorizes the Fish and 15 Wildlife Conservation Commission and Southwest Florida Water Management District, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection, to develop tasks 16 necessary to initiate the program as recommended by the 17 council. (See bill for details.) 18 19 20 21 22 23 2.4 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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