

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to water management districts; creating s. 373.1138, F.S.; defining the term "direct-support organization"; authorizing water management districts to allow direct-support organizations to use certain properties and facilities; authorizing water management districts to establish rules for such use; providing eligibility requirements for such use; requiring direct-support organizations to provide for an annual financial audit; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 373.1138, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

373.1138 Water management district direct-support organization; definition; use of property; audit.--

(1) DEFINITION.--For the purpose of this section, the term "direct-support organization" means an organization that is all of the following:

(a) A not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 that is exempted from filing fees and approved by the Department of State.

(b) Organized and operated to conduct programs and activities; initiate developmental projects; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and bequests of moneys; acquire, receive, hold, invest, and administer, in its own name, securities, funds, objects of value, or other property, real or

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29 personal; and make expenditures to or for the direct or indirect  
30 benefit of a water management district.

31 (c) Determined by a water management district to be  
32 consistent with the priority issues and objectives of the water  
33 management district and in the best interest of the state.

34 (d) Approved in writing by the governing board of a water  
35 management district to operate for the direct or indirect  
36 benefit of the water management district. Such approval shall be  
37 in a letter of agreement from the water management district.

38 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.--

39 (a) The water management district may permit, without  
40 charge, appropriate use of fixed property and facilities of the  
41 water management district by a direct-support organization  
42 subject to the provisions of this section. Such use must be  
43 directly in keeping with the approved purpose of the direct-  
44 support organization and may not be made at times or places that  
45 would unreasonably interfere with opportunities for staff to use  
46 the areas for established purposes.

47 (b) The water management district may prescribe by rule  
48 any condition with which a direct-support organization shall  
49 comply in order to use fixed property or facilities of the water  
50 management district.

51 (c) The water management district shall not permit the use  
52 of any fixed property or facilities of the water management  
53 district by a direct-support organization that does not provide  
54 equal membership and employment opportunities to all persons  
55 regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national  
56 origin.

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57 |       (3) ANNUAL AUDIT.--The direct-support organization shall  
58 | provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
59 | 215.981.

60 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.