

By Senator Baker

20-1033-06

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the water management
3 districts; amending s. 373.503, F.S.; providing
4 that a water management district's millage rate
5 is subject to annual authorization by the
6 Legislature; requiring the Legislature to
7 annually review a water management district's
8 millage rate; requiring the Legislature to
9 annually set the revenue authorized to be
10 raised by each water management district from
11 ad valorem taxes; amending s. 373.536, F.S.;
12 providing that a water management district's
13 fiscal year begins July 1; providing a timeline
14 for a water management district's budget
15 submission; providing for implementation;
16 providing an effective date.

17
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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20 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
21 373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsection (5)
22 of that section is redesignated as subsection (6), and a new
23 subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

24 373.503 Manner of taxation.--

25 (3)(a) Subject to the annual authorization to levy ad
26 valorem taxes pursuant to subsection (5), the districts may
27 levy ad valorem taxes on property within the district solely
28 for the purposes of this chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949,
29 Laws of Florida, as amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of
30 Florida, as amended. The authority to levy ad valorem taxes as
31 provided in this act shall commence with the year 1977.

1 | However, the taxes levied for 1977 by the governing boards
2 | pursuant to this section shall be prorated to ensure that no
3 | such taxes will be levied for the first 4 days of the tax
4 | year, which days will fall prior to the effective date of the
5 | amendment to s. 9(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution,
6 | which was approved March 9, 1976. When appropriate, taxes
7 | levied by each governing board may be separated by the
8 | governing board into a millage necessary for the purposes of
9 | the district and a millage necessary for financing basin
10 | functions specified in s. 373.0695. ~~Beginning with the taxing~~
11 | ~~year 1977, and~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of any other
12 | general or special law to the contrary and subject to the
13 | annual authorization to levy ad valorem taxes pursuant to
14 | subsection (5), the maximum total millage rate for district
15 | and basin purposes shall be:

- 16 | 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05
17 | mill.
- 18 | 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75
19 | mill.
- 20 | 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6
21 | mill.
- 22 | 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0
23 | mill.
- 24 | 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80
25 | mill.

26 | (5) In order to ensure that the taxes authorized by
27 | this chapter continue to be in proportion to the benefits
28 | derived by the several parcels of real estate within the
29 | districts to which territories are annexed and transferred,
30 | the Legislature shall annually review the authorized millage
31 | rate for each district and annually set the amount of revenue

1 authorized to be raised by each district from the taxes
2 authorized by this chapter.

3 Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (c),
4 (e), and (f) of subsection (5) of section 373.536, Florida
5 Statutes, are amended to read:

6 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

7 (1) FISCAL YEAR.--The fiscal year of districts created
8 under the provisions of this chapter shall extend from July
9 ~~October~~ 1 of one year through June ~~September~~ 30 of the
10 following year.

11 (2) BUDGET SUBMITTAL.--The budget officer of the
12 district shall, on or before March 30 ~~July 15~~ of each year,
13 submit for consideration by the governing board of the
14 district a tentative budget for the district covering its
15 proposed operations and funding requirements for the ensuing
16 fiscal year.

17 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW
18 AND APPROVAL.--

19 (c) Each water management district shall, by April 15
20 ~~August 1~~ of each year, submit for review a tentative budget to
21 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative
23 committees and subcommittees with substantive or fiscal
24 jurisdiction over water management districts, as determined by
25 the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives as applicable, the secretary of the
27 department, and the governing body of each county in which the
28 district has jurisdiction or derives any funds for the
29 operations of the district.

30 (e) By May 15 ~~September 5~~ of the year in which the
31 budget is submitted, the House and Senate appropriations

1 chairs may transmit to each district comments and objections
2 to the proposed budgets. Each district governing board shall
3 include a response to such comments and objections in the
4 record of the governing board meeting where final adoption of
5 the budget takes place, and the record of this meeting shall
6 be transmitted to the Executive Office of the Governor, the
7 department, and the chairs of the House and Senate
8 appropriations committees.

9 (f) The Executive Office of the Governor shall
10 annually, on or before September ~~December~~ 15, file with the
11 Legislature a report that summarizes its review of the water
12 management districts' tentative budgets and displays the
13 adopted budget allocations by program area. The report must
14 identify the districts that are not in compliance with the
15 reporting requirements of this section. State funds shall be
16 withheld from a water management district that fails to comply
17 with these reporting requirements.

18 Section 3. For the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 fiscal
19 years and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the water
20 management districts shall budget and plan for their fiscal
21 business to accommodate the change in the fiscal year required
22 by this act.

23 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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26 SENATE SUMMARY

27 Requires that the Legislature annually review the millage
28 rates of the water management districts and set the
29 revenue to be raised. Provides for the fiscal year for
30 the water management districts to begin on July 1.
31 Revises the dates for reviewing and submitting budgets in
order to conform to the change in the fiscal year.