

HB 7207

2006

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 district's millage rate; requiring the
7 Legislature to annually set the amount of revenue
8 authorized to be raised by a district from ad valorem
9 taxes; providing for the amount of authorized revenue to
10 be raised by a district if the Legislature does not set
11 the amount by a specified date; amending s. 373.536, F.S.;
12 revising the beginning and ending dates of a district's
13 fiscal year; revising the date by which a district must
14 submit a tentative budget to the Governor and the
15 Legislature; eliminating the authorization for the
16 Legislature to comment on such budgets; eliminating the
17 requirement for districts to respond to such comments and
18 to forward such responses to the Governor and Legislature;
19 revising the date by which the Executive Office of the
20 Governor must file a specified report with the
21 Legislature; directing districts to implement conforming
22 measures; providing an effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25
26 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
27 373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (5) is

28 | renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added
 29 | to that section, to read:

30 | 373.503 Manner of taxation.--

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

- 52 | 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 53 | 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 54 | 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 55 | 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.

56 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.
 57 (5) To ensure that the taxes authorized by this chapter
 58 continue to be in proportion to the benefits derived by the
 59 several parcels of real estate within the districts, the
 60 Legislature shall annually review the authorized millage rate
 61 for each district and annually set the amount of revenue
 62 authorized to be raised by each district from the taxes
 63 authorized by this chapter. However, if the annual amount of
 64 revenue authorized to be raised by each district is not set by
 65 the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year, each district
 66 is authorized to raise the amount of revenue authorized by the
 67 Legislature in the preceding fiscal year and adjusted by the
 68 percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding
 69 fiscal year.

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

73 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

74 (1) FISCAL YEAR.--The fiscal year of districts created
 75 under the provisions of this chapter shall extend from July
 76 ~~October~~ 1 of one year through June ~~September~~ 30 of the following
 77 year.

78 (2) BUDGET SUBMITTAL.--The budget officer of the district
 79 shall, ~~on or before July 15 of each year,~~ submit for
 80 consideration by the governing board of the district a tentative
 81 budget for the district covering its proposed operations and
 82 funding requirements for the ensuing fiscal year.

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83 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND
84 APPROVAL.--

85 (c) Each water management district shall, by February
86 ~~August~~ 1 of each year, submit for review a tentative budget to
87 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
88 House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative
89 committees and subcommittees with substantive or fiscal
90 jurisdiction over water management districts, as determined by
91 the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of
92 Representatives as applicable, the secretary of the department,
93 and the governing body of each county in which the district has
94 jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the
95 district.

96 ~~(e) By September 5 of the year in which the budget is~~
97 ~~submitted, the House and Senate appropriations chairs may~~
98 ~~transmit to each district comments and objections to the~~
99 ~~proposed budgets. Each district governing board shall include a~~
100 ~~response to such comments and objections in the record of the~~
101 ~~governing board meeting where final adoption of the budget takes~~
102 ~~place, and the record of this meeting shall be transmitted to~~
103 ~~the Executive Office of the Governor, the department, and the~~
104 ~~chairs of the House and Senate appropriations committees.~~

105 (e)-(f) The Executive Office of the Governor shall
106 annually, on or before September ~~December~~ 15, file with the
107 Legislature a report that summarizes its review of the water
108 management districts' tentative budgets and displays the adopted
109 budget allocations by program area. The report must identify the
110 districts that are not in compliance with the reporting

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111 requirements of this section. State funds shall be withheld from
112 a water management district that fails to comply with these
113 reporting requirements.

114 Section 3. For the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 fiscal years,
115 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the water management
116 districts are directed to budget and plan for their fiscal
117 management to conform to the provisions of this act.

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