

Bill No. SB 1486

Barcode 193558

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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The Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation
(Gaetz) recommended the following amendment:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause

and insert:

Section 1. Part IV of chapter 369, Florida Statutes,
consisting of sections 369.401, 369.402, 369.403, and 369.407,
is created to read:

369.401 Short title.--This part may be cited as the
"Florida Springs Protection Act."

369.402 Legislative intent.--

(1) The Legislature recognizes that the springs in
this state are a precious and fragile natural resource that
must be protected. Florida's springs provide recreational and
tourism opportunities and are a great financial benefit to
local economies. In addition, springs provide critical habitat
for endangered or threatened species of plants and animals and
serve as indicators of the quality of groundwater resources in
general.

Bill No. SB 1486

Barcode 193558

1 (2) The Legislature recognizes that a spring is only
 2 as healthy as the water resources in its springshed. The
 3 groundwater that supplies springs is recharged by seepage from
 4 the surface and through direct conduits such as sinkholes. As
 5 a result, the health of spring systems is directly influenced
 6 by activities and land uses within the springshed.

7 (3) The Legislature recognizes that springsheds and
 8 areas of high vulnerability within springsheds are not clearly
 9 delineated and that, as the first step in adequately
 10 protecting springs, the springsheds must be delineated and
 11 characterized using the best available data.

12 (4) The Legislature recognizes that the Department of
 13 Environmental Protection, the water management districts, the
 14 United States Geological Survey, and others have initiated
 15 efforts to delineate the springsheds of this state's 33
 16 first-magnitude springs.

17 (5) The Legislature recognizes that springshed
 18 delineations and the location of areas of high vulnerability
 19 within springsheds are critical information needed by local
 20 governments in the preparation of comprehensive plans and plan
 21 amendments in order to provide for land uses and protection
 22 strategies that are compatible with protection of quantity and
 23 quality of groundwater recharge within a springshed.

24 369.403 Definitions.--As used in this part, the term:

25 (1) "High vulnerability zone" means the geographic
 26 area within a springshed delineated by the Department of
 27 Environmental Protection and the appropriate water management
 28 district which contributes most directly to the water quantity
 29 and quality of the spring.

30 (2) "Spring" means a point where groundwater is
 31 discharged onto the earth's surface, including under any

Bill No. SB 1486

Barcode 193558

1 surface water of the state, excluding seeps.

2 (3) "Springshed" means those areas within the
3 groundwater and surface water basins which contribute to the
4 discharge of a spring.

5 367.407 Delineation of springsheds and high
6 vulnerability zones.--

7 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
8 coordination with the water management districts and the
9 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall create
10 a priority list and schedule for delineation of the springshed
11 and high vulnerability zones within each springshed for this
12 state's 33 first-magnitude springs. The priority list and
13 schedule shall include a consideration of:

14 (a) Work already completed;

15 (b) The degree of threat to the spring based on
16 existing water quality and water quantity impacts.

17 (c) Projected development patterns; and

18 (d) Existing and reasonably expected funding and
19 resources available to complete the work.

20 (2) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
21 coordination with the water management districts and the
22 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall develop
23 criteria for the delineation of high vulnerability zones
24 within a springshed.

25 (3) By January 30, 2008, the Department of
26 Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the
27 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
28 House of Representatives on the status of springshed
29 delineation which includes:

30 (a) The status of the delineation of the springshed
31 and high vulnerability areas within each springshed for each

Bill No. SB 1486

Barcode 193558

1 of the 33 first-magnitude springs.

2 (b) The priority list and schedule developed under
3 subsection (1).

4 (c) The criteria developed for the delineation of high
5 vulnerability zones within a springshed developed under
6 subsection (2).

7 (d) Identification of any additional funding and
8 resources needed to complete the delineation of the
9 springsheds and high vulnerability areas within each
10 springshed.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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14 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

15 And the title is amended as follows:

16 Delete everything before the enacting clause

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18 and insert:

19 A bill to be entitled

20 An act relating to springs; creating the
21 "Florida Springs Protection Act"; creating s.
22 369.402, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
23 creating s. 369.403, F.S.; defining terms;
24 creating s. 369.407, F.S.; prescribing duties
25 of the Department of Environmental Protection,
26 alone and in coordination with other
27 governmental entities, with respect to
28 protection of springs and surrounding lands;
29 requiring a report; providing an effective
30 date.

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