By the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation; and Senator Oelrich

592-2287-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to springs; creating the
3	"Florida Springs Protection Act"; creating s.
4	369.402, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
5	creating s. 369.403, F.S.; defining terms;
6	creating s. 369.407, F.S.; prescribing duties
7	of the Department of Environmental Protection,
8	alone and in coordination with other
9	governmental entities, with respect to
10	protection of springs and surrounding lands;
11	requiring a report; providing an effective
12	date.
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14	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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16	Section 1. Part IV of chapter 369, Florida Statutes,
17	consisting of sections 369.401, 369.402, 369.403, and 369.407,
18	is created to read:
19	369.401 Short title This part may be cited as the
20	"Florida Springs Protection Act."
21	369.402 Legislative intent
22	(1) The Legislature recognizes that the springs in
23	this state are a precious and fragile natural resource that
24	must be protected. Florida's springs provide recreational and
25	tourism opportunities and are a great financial benefit to
26	local economies. In addition, springs provide critical habitat
27	for endangered or threatened species of plants and animals and
28	serve as indicators of the quality of groundwater resources in
29	general.
30	(2) The Legislature recognizes that a spring is only
31	as healthy as the water resources in its springshed. The

2 the surface and through direct conduits such as sinkholes. As a result, the health of spring systems is directly influenced 3 4 by activities and land uses within the springshed. 5 (3) The Legislature recognizes that springsheds and 6 areas of high vulnerability within springsheds are not clearly 7 delineated and that, as the first step in adequately 8 protecting springs, the springsheds must be delineated and characterized using the best available data. 9 10 (4) The Legislature recognizes that the Department of Environmental Protection, the water management districts, the 11 12 United States Geological Survey, and others have initiated efforts to delineate the springsheds of this state's 33 13 first-magnitude springs. 14 (5) The Legislature recognizes that springshed 15 delineations and the location of areas of high vulnerability 16 within springsheds are critical information needed by local 18 governments in the preparation of comprehensive plans and plan amendments in order to provide for land uses and protection 19 2.0 strategies that are compatible with protection of quantity and 21 quality of groundwater recharge within a springshed. 22 369.403 Definitions.--As used in this part, the term: 23 (1) "High vulnerability zone" means the geographic

groundwater that supplies springs is recharged by seepage from

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and quality of the spring.

area within a springshed delineated by the Department of

Environmental Protection and the appropriate water management

(2) "Spring" means a point where groundwater is

discharged onto the earth's surface, including under any

surface water of the state, excluding seeps.

district which contributes most directly to the water quantity

1	(3) "Springshed" means those areas within the
2	groundwater and surface water basins which contribute to the
3	discharge of a spring.
4	367.407 Delineation of springsheds and high
5	vulnerability zones
6	(1) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
7	coordination with the water management districts and the
8	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall create
9	a priority list and schedule for delineation of the springshed
10	and high vulnerability zones within each springshed for this
11	state's 33 first-magnitude springs. The priority list and
12	schedule shall include a consideration of:
13	(a) Work already completed;
14	(b) The degree of threat to the spring based on
15	existing water quality and water quantity impacts;
16	(c) Projected development patterns; and
17	(d) Existing and reasonably expected funding and
18	resources available to complete the work.
19	(2) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
20	coordination with the water management districts and the
21	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall develop
22	criteria for the delineation of high vulnerability zones
23	within a springshed.
24	(3) By January 30, 2008, the Department of
25	Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the
26	Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
27	House of Representatives on the status of springshed
28	delineation which includes:
29	(a) The status of the delineation of the springshed
30	and high vulnerability areas within each springshed for each
31	of the 33 first-magnitude springs

1	(b) The priority list and schedule developed under
2	subsection (1).
3	(c) The criteria developed for the delineation of high
4	vulnerability zones within a springshed developed under
5	subsection (2).
6	(d) Identification of any additional funding and
7	resources needed to complete the delineation of the
8	springsheds and high vulnerability areas within each
9	springshed.
10	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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12	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
13	Senate Bill 1486
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15	Requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
16	Services and the appropriate water management districts, to create a priority list and schedule for the delineation of
17	springsheds and high vulnerability zones for Florida's 33 first magnitude springs. The department shall provide a report
18	on the status of springshed delineation to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
19	Representatives no later than January 30, 2008.
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