



235454

CHAMBER ACTION

<u>Senate</u>	.	<u>House</u>
Comm: RCS	.	
4/15/2008	.	
	.	
	.	

1 The Committee on General Government Appropriations (Bennett)
2 recommended the following **amendment**:

3
4 **Senate Amendment (with directory and title amendments)**

5 Delete line(s) 131-145

6 and insert:

7 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
8 373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (5) is
9 renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added
10 to that section, to read:

11 373.503 Manner of taxation.--

12 (3) (a) Subject to annual authorization by the Legislature
13 to levy ad valorem taxes under subsection (5), the districts may
14 levy ad valorem taxes on property within the district solely for
15 the purposes of this chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of
16 Florida, as amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as
17 amended. The authority to levy ad valorem taxes as provided in



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18 | this act shall commence with the year 1977. However, the taxes
19 | levied for 1977 by the governing boards pursuant to this section
20 | shall be prorated to ensure that no such taxes will be levied for
21 | the first 4 days of the tax year, which days will fall prior to
22 | the effective date of the amendment to s. 9(b), Art. VII of the
23 | State Constitution, which was approved March 9, 1976. When
24 | appropriate, taxes levied by each governing board may be
25 | separated by the governing board into a millage necessary for the
26 | purposes of the district and a millage necessary for financing
27 | basin functions specified in s. 373.0695. ~~Beginning with the~~
28 | ~~taxing year 1977,~~ and Notwithstanding the provisions of any other
29 | general or special law to the contrary and subject to annual
30 | authorization by the Legislature to levy ad valorem taxes under
31 | subsection (5), the maximum total millage rate for district and
32 | basin purposes shall be:

- 33 | 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 34 | 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 35 | 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 36 | 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.
- 37 | 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.

38 | (5) To ensure that the taxes authorized by this chapter
39 | continue to be in proportion to the benefits derived by the
40 | several parcels of real estate within the districts, the
41 | Legislature shall annually review the authorized millage rate for
42 | each district and annually set the maximum amount of revenue
43 | authorized to be raised by each district from the taxes
44 | authorized by this chapter. However, if the annual maximum amount
45 | of revenue authorized to be raised by each district is not set by
46 | the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year, each district
47 | is authorized to raise the amount of revenue authorized by the



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48 Legislature in the preceding fiscal year and adjusted by the
49 percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding
50 fiscal year.

51 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (c), (e),
52 and (f) of subsection (5) of section 373.536, Florida Statutes,
53 are amended and a new subsection (7) is added to read:

54 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

55 (1) FISCAL YEAR.--The fiscal year of districts created
56 under the provisions of this chapter shall extend from July
57 ~~October~~ 1 of one year through June ~~September~~ 30 of the following
58 year.

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

64 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND
65 APPROVAL.--

66 (c) Each water management district shall, by February
67 ~~August~~ 1 of each year, submit for review a tentative budget to
68 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
69 House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative
70 committees and subcommittees with substantive or fiscal
71 jurisdiction over water management districts, as determined by
72 the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of
73 Representatives as applicable, the secretary of the department,
74 and the governing body of each county in which the district has
75 jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the
76 district.



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77 ~~(e) By September 5 of the year in which the budget is~~
78 ~~submitted, the House and Senate appropriations chairs may~~
79 ~~transmit to each district comments and objections to the proposed~~
80 ~~budgets. Each district governing board shall include a response~~
81 ~~to such comments and objections in the record of the governing~~
82 ~~board meeting where final adoption of the budget takes place, and~~
83 ~~the record of this meeting shall be transmitted to the Executive~~
84 ~~Office of the Governor, the department, and the chairs of the~~
85 ~~House and Senate appropriations committees.~~

86 (e) (f) The Executive Office of the Governor shall
87 annually, on or before September ~~December~~ 15, file with the
88 Legislature a report that summarizes its review of the water
89 management districts' tentative budgets and displays the adopted
90 budget allocations by program area. The report must identify the
91 districts that are not in compliance with the reporting
92 requirements of this section. State funds shall be withheld from
93 a water management district that fails to comply with these
94 reporting requirements.

95 (7) Prior to the governing boards approval of any
96 acquisition, project or project component of which such approval
97 shall constitute a commitment to expend more than 25 percent of
98 the districts prior fiscal years audited total revenues such
99 proposed expenditure shall be submitted to the Legislative Budget
100 Commission for approval.

101 Section 6. For the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 fiscal
102 years, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the water
103 management districts are directed to budget and plan for their
104 fiscal management to conform to the provisions of this act.

105
106 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====



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107 | And the title is amended as follows:

108 | Delete line(s) 10-13

109 | and insert:

110 | a licensed water well contractor; amending s. 373.503, F.S.;

111 | providing that a water management district's millage rate is

112 | subject to annual authorization by the Legislature; requiring the

113 | Legislature to annually review a district's millage rate is

114 | subject to annual authorization by the Legislature; requiring the

115 | Legislature to annually review a district's millage rate;

116 | requiring the Legislature to annually set the amount of revenue

117 | authorized to be raised by a district from ad valorem taxes;

118 | providing for the amount of authorized revenue to be raised by a

119 | district if the Legislature does not set the amount by a

120 | specified date; amending s. 373.536, F.S.; revising the beginning

121 | and ending dates of a district's fiscal year; revising the date

122 | by which a district must submit a tentative budget to the

123 | Governor and the Legislature; eliminating the authorization for

124 | the Legislature to comment on such budgets; eliminating the

125 | requirement for districts to respond to such comments and to

126 | forward such responses to the Governor and Legislature; revising

127 | the date by which the Executive Office of the Governor must file

128 | a specified report with the Legislature; directing districts to

129 | implement conforming measures; providing for legislative review

130 | of certain district expenditures; amending s. 373.079,