

By the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation;  
and Senators Saunders, Lynn and Bullard

592-06003-08

2008708c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to water management; providing legislative  
3 intent; directing the Secretary of Environmental  
4 Protection to coordinate with the water management  
5 districts to conduct a study of certain desalination  
6 technologies; providing study requirements; requiring the  
7 secretary to report to the Governor and the Legislature by  
8 a specified date; creating the Reclaimed Water  
9 Coordination Task Force; providing legislative findings;  
10 providing purposes; requiring that the task force review  
11 certain rules, programs, and policies when preparing its  
12 recommendations; providing for membership of the task  
13 force; requiring that members be appointed on or before a  
14 specified date; providing for administrative support for  
15 the task force; providing duties of the task force;  
16 requiring that the Department of Environmental Protection  
17 and each water management district encourage the use of  
18 pilot projects for certain purposes; providing an  
19 effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23 Section 1. (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds  
24 that desalination of seawater is a proven technology for  
25 providing water supply solutions for countries around the world  
26 and an increasingly cost-competitive alternative for coastal  
27 cities within the United States. The potential success of  
28 desalination projects would benefit the communities they directly  
29 serve and the state as a whole by preserving existing natural

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30 water resources and providing a practical means of ensuring  
31 adequate supplies of water for future generations of Floridians.  
32 Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to aggressively  
33 pursue desalination technologies for use in the state.

34 (2) DESALINATION TECHNOLOGY STUDY; REPORT.--The Secretary  
35 of Environmental Protection is directed to coordinate with the  
36 water management districts to conduct a study examining all  
37 current and available desalination technologies. The study shall  
38 include an analysis of the existing desalination projects in the  
39 state and recommendations for a plan to effectively utilize and  
40 implement desalination technologies that are environmentally and  
41 fiscally sound and that will provide sustainability of the  
42 current water supply demands of the state as well as long-term  
43 potable water supply demands based on projected population  
44 growth. The secretary shall submit a report of the findings of  
45 the study and plan recommendations to the Governor, the President  
46 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
47 June 30, 2009.

48 Section 2. The Legislature finds that encouragement and  
49 promotion of reuse of reclaimed water, as defined by the  
50 Department of Environmental Protection, are state objectives and  
51 serve the public interest. The Legislature finds that the  
52 implementation of this policy has been hampered by a lack of  
53 clear understanding as to the role of local governments producing  
54 and distributing reclaimed water and water management districts  
55 as to the regulation of the use of reclaimed water. The  
56 Legislature further finds that the Department of Environmental  
57 Protection and water management districts do not have a common  
58 policy regarding reclaimed water as applied to processes related

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59 to water-use permitting and water shortage. The Legislature also  
60 finds that a clear and consistent policy regarding the use of  
61 reclaimed water is required to achieve the most efficient and  
62 beneficial use of this resource.

63 (1) The Reclaimed Water Coordination Task Force is created  
64 for the purposes of recommending clear direction as to the  
65 relative roles of local governments and water management  
66 districts with regard to the regulation of the use of reclaimed  
67 water and proposing a statewide uniform approach to consideration  
68 of use of reclaimed water as applied to processes related to  
69 water-use permitting and water shortages. When preparing its  
70 recommendations, the task force shall review the rules, programs,  
71 and policies of the five water management districts in this state  
72 as such rules, programs, and policies relate to considerations  
73 involving the use of reclaimed water with respect to water-use  
74 permitting, water shortages, and related actions, activities, or  
75 programs.

76 (2) The task force shall consist of the following members:

77 (a) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
78 House of Representatives shall each appoint one member from their  
79 respective chambers, who shall co-chair the task force.

80 (b) The Secretary of Environmental Protection or designee.

81 (c) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or his or her  
82 designee.

83 (d) The executive director of the South Florida Water  
84 Management District, or his or her designee.

85 (e) The executive director of the Southwest Florida Water  
86 Management District, or his or her designee.

87 (f) The executive director of the St. Johns River Water

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88 Management District, or his or her designee.

89 (g) The executive director of the Suwannee River Water  
90 Management District, or his or her designee.

91 (h) The executive director of the Northwest Florida Water  
92 Management District, or his or her designee.

93 (i) The executive director of the Florida Nursery Growers  
94 and Landscape Association, or his or her designee.

95 (j) The executive director of the Florida Sugar Cane  
96 League, or his or her designee.

97 (k) In addition to the appointments in paragraph (a), the  
98 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
99 Representatives shall each appoint:

100 1. Three members who are employees of a local government  
101 producing reclaimed water for reuse by the public.

102 2. A representative of a not-for-profit environmental  
103 advocacy organization.

104 3. A representative from a company that is a self-supplier  
105 of water.

106 (3) Members of the task force shall be appointed on or  
107 before August 1, 2008.

108 (4) The clerical and professional staff of the Department  
109 of Environmental Protection shall provide administrative support  
110 to the task force. The task force may request support from the  
111 clerical and professional staff of the standing committees of the  
112 Senate and the House of Representatives.

113 (5) The task force shall:

114 (a) Determine the role of the use of reclaimed water as  
115 applied to processes related to water-use permitting and water  
116 shortage.

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117 (b) Assess the appropriate roles of local governments and  
118 water management districts in regulating the use of reclaimed  
119 water.

120 (c) Consider how the use of reclaimed water could be  
121 promoted in areas in which new or increased water withdrawals  
122 have been limited by law through the use of offsets or other  
123 similar incentives.

124 (d) Evaluate the most effective means of supplementing  
125 reclaimed water supplies during peak demands in order to improve  
126 reliability and promote widespread adoption of reclaimed water.

127 (e) Consider the most effective means of incorporating any  
128 recommended statewide policy changes.

129 (6) The Department of Environmental Protection and each  
130 water management district shall encourage the use of pilot  
131 projects for the purpose of obtaining data and operating  
132 experience regarding various types of reuse and irrigation  
133 systems.

134 (7) The task force shall submit a report to the Governor,  
135 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
136 Representatives summarizing its findings and recommendations on  
137 or before January 31, 2009.

138 (8) The Department of Environmental Protection and the  
139 water management districts are directed, and all other agencies  
140 and local governments are requested, to render assistance to and  
141 cooperate with the task force.

142 (9) The task force shall dissolve on January 31, 2009.  
143 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.