

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to water management districts; reenacting
3 ss. 373.069, 373.0695, and 373.083, F.S., relating to the
4 creation of the water management districts pursuant to the
5 provisions of the Florida Government Accountability Act;
6 reenacting and amending s. 373.0693, F.S.; eliminating the
7 Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council; reenacting and
8 amending s. 373.073, F.S., relating to governing boards;
9 revising provisions for the nomination and appointment of
10 members to the governing boards of the water management
11 districts; requiring the Florida Public Service Commission
12 Nominating Council to provide nominations to the Governor;
13 revising provisions relating to terms of office for board
14 members; providing requirements and procedures for the
15 nomination of board members; requiring the Department of
16 Law Enforcement to conduct background investigations;
17 providing that water management district governing board
18 appointees are subject to Senate confirmation; amending s.
19 373.079, F.S.; revising meeting requirements for water
20 management district governing boards; amending s. 373.323,
21 F.S.; revising requirements for water well contractor
22 licensure examinations; requiring applicants to provide
23 specified documentation; amending s. 373.503, F.S.;

24 providing that millage rates for water management
25 districts are subject to annual review and authorization
26 by the Legislature; requiring the Legislature to set the
27 maximum amount of revenue water management districts are
28 authorized to raise from ad valorem taxes; providing an

29 amount of authorized revenue under specified conditions;
30 amending s. 373.536, F.S.; revising fiscal year dates for
31 water management districts; revising the date by which
32 water management districts must submit tentative budgets
33 to the Governor and the Legislature; eliminating the
34 authorization for the Legislature to comment on such
35 budgets; eliminating requirements for water management
36 districts to respond to such comments; revising the date
37 by which the Executive Office of the Governor must file a
38 specified report with the Legislature; directing districts
39 to implement conforming budget and planning measures;
40 providing an effective date.

41
42 WHEREAS, sections 11.901-11.920, Florida Statutes, the
43 Florida Government Accountability Act, subject the water
44 management districts and each district's respective advisory
45 committees to a sunset review process in order to determine
46 whether the districts should be retained, modified, or
47 abolished, and

48 WHEREAS, the water management districts produced reports
49 providing specific information, as enumerated in s. 11.906,
50 Florida Statutes, and

51 WHEREAS, upon receipt of the reports, the Joint
52 Legislative Sunset Committee and committees of the Senate and
53 the House of Representatives assigned to act as sunset review
54 committees reviewed the reports and requested studies by the
55 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
56 Accountability, and

57 WHEREAS, based on the reports of the water management
 58 districts, studies of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
 59 Government Accountability, and public input, the Joint
 60 Legislative Sunset Committee and legislative sunset review
 61 committees made recommendations on the abolition, continuation,
 62 or reorganization of the water management districts and each
 63 district's advisory committees; on the need for the functions
 64 performed by the districts and the advisory committees; and on
 65 the consolidation, transfer, or reorganization of programs
 66 within the water management districts, NOW, THEREFORE,

67
 68 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

69
 70 Section 1. Section 373.069, Florida Statutes, is reenacted
 71 to read:

72 373.069 Creation of water management districts.--

73 (1) At 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 1976, the state shall be
 74 divided into the following water management districts:

- 75 (a) Northwest Florida Water Management District.
- 76 (b) Suwannee River Water Management District.
- 77 (c) St. Johns River Water Management District.
- 78 (d) Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- 79 (e) South Florida Water Management District.

80 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other special or
 81 general act to the contrary, the boundaries of the respective
 82 districts named in subsection (1) shall include the areas within
 83 the following boundaries:

84 (a) Northwest Florida Water Management District.--Begin at
85 the point where the section line between Sections 26 and 27,
86 Township 4 South, Range 3 East intersects the Gulf of Mexico;
87 thence north along the section line to the northwest corner of
88 Section 2, Township 1 South, Range 3 East; thence east along the
89 Tallahassee Base Line to the southeast corner of Section 36,
90 Township 1 North, Range 4 East; thence north along the range
91 line to the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 1 North,
92 Range 5 East; thence east along the township line to the
93 southeast corner of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 5 East;
94 thence north along the range line to the northeast corner of
95 Section 24, Township 2 North, Range 5 East; thence west along
96 the section line to the southwest corner of the east 1/2 of
97 Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 5 East; thence north to the
98 northwest corner of the east 1/2 of Section 13, Township 2
99 North, Range 5 East; thence east along the section line to the
100 southeast corner of Section 12, Township 2 North, Range 5 East;
101 thence north along the range line to the northeast corner of
102 Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 East; thence west along
103 the Watson Line to the southwest corner of Lot Number 168;
104 thence north along the line between Lot Numbers 168 and 169, 154
105 and 155 to the Georgia line; thence westward along the Georgia-
106 Florida line to the intersection of the south boundary of the
107 State of Alabama; thence west along the Alabama-Florida line to
108 the intersection of the northwest corner Alabama-Florida
109 Boundary; thence south along the Alabama-Florida line to the
110 Gulf of Mexico; thence east along the Gulf of Mexico, including

111 the waters of said Gulf within the jurisdiction of the State of
 112 Florida, to the Point of Beginning.

113 (b) Suwannee River Water Management District.--Begin in
 114 the Gulf of Mexico on the section line between Sections 29 and
 115 32, Township 15 South, Range 15 East; thence east along the
 116 section lines to the southwest corner of Section 27, Township 15
 117 South, Range 17 East; thence north along the section line to the
 118 northwest corner of Section 3, Township 15 South, Range 17 East;
 119 thence east along the section line to the easterly right-of-way
 120 line of State Road No. 337; thence northerly along said easterly
 121 right-of-way line of State Road No. 337 to the southerly right-
 122 of-way line of State Road No. 24; thence northeasterly along
 123 said southerly right-of-way line of State Road No. 24 to the
 124 Levy-Alachua county line; thence south along the Levy-Alachua
 125 county line, also being the range line between Range 17 and 18
 126 East to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 11 South,
 127 Range 17 East; thence easterly along the Levy-Alachua county
 128 line, also being the township line between Townships 11 and 12
 129 South, to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 11 South,
 130 Range 18 East; thence north along the range line to the
 131 northwest corner of Section 19, Township 9 South, Range 19 East;
 132 thence east along the section line to the southeast corner of
 133 Section 13, Township 9 South, Range 19 East; thence north along
 134 the range line to the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 9
 135 South, Range 20 East; thence eastward along the township line to
 136 the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 20
 137 East; thence north along the township line to the northwest
 138 corner of Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 21 East; thence

139 east along the section line to the northeast corner of Section
140 15, Township 8 South, Range 21 East; thence south along the
141 section line to the southwest corner of Section 23, Township 8
142 South, Range 21 East; thence east along the section line to the
143 northeast corner of Section 26, Township 8 South, Range 21 East;
144 thence south along the section line to the southwest corner of
145 the north 1/2 of Section 25, Township 8 South, Range 21 East;
146 thence east along a line to the northeast corner of the south
147 half of Section 25, Township 8 South, Range 21 East; thence
148 south along the range line to the southwest corner of Section
149 30, Township 8 South, Range 22 East; thence east along the
150 section line to the northeast corner of Section 32, Township 8
151 South, Range 22 East; thence south along the section line to the
152 southwest corner of Section 16, Township 9 South, Range 22 East;
153 thence eastward along the section line to the southeast corner
154 of the west 1/8 of Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 23 East;
155 thence northward to the northeast corner of the west 1/8 of
156 Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 23 East; thence west to the
157 southwest corner of Section 7, Township 9 South, Range 23 East;
158 thence northward along the Bradford-Clay County line to the
159 northeast corner of Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 22 East;
160 thence west along the section line to the southwest corner of
161 the east 1/2 of Section 25, Township 8 South, Range 22 East;
162 thence north to the northeast corner of the west 1/2 of Section
163 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East; thence west along the
164 section line to the southwest corner of Section 13, Township 8
165 South, Range 22 East; thence north along the section line to the
166 northwest corner of Section 25, Township 7 South, Range 22 East;

167 | thence east along the section line to the southeast corner of
168 | Section 24, Township 7 South, Range 22 East; thence north along
169 | the Bradford-Clay County line to the intersection of the south
170 | boundary of Baker County; thence west along the Baker-Bradford
171 | County line to the intersection of the east boundary of Union
172 | County; thence west along the Union-Baker County line to the
173 | southwest corner of Section 18, Township 4 South, Range 20 East;
174 | thence north along the range line to the northeast corner of
175 | Section 1, Township 3 South, Range 19 East; thence west along
176 | the township line to the intersection of the east boundary of
177 | Columbia County; thence north along the Baker-Columbia County
178 | line to the intersection of the north boundary line of the State
179 | of Florida; thence westward along the Georgia-Florida line to
180 | the northwest corner of Lot Number 155; thence south along the
181 | line between Lot Number 154 and 155, 168 and 169 to the Watson
182 | Line; thence east along the Watson Line to the northeast corner
183 | of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 East; thence south
184 | along the range line between Ranges 5 and 6 East to the
185 | southeast corner of Section 12, Township 2 North, Range 5 East;
186 | thence west along the section line to the northwest corner of
187 | the east 1/2 of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 5 East;
188 | thence south to the southwest corner of the east 1/2 of Section
189 | 13, Township 2 North, Range 5 East; thence east along the
190 | section line to the northeast corner of Section 24, Township 2
191 | North, Range 5 East; thence south along the range line between
192 | Ranges 5 and 6 East to the southeast corner of Section 36,
193 | Township 2 North, Range 5 East; thence west along the township
194 | line between Townships 1 and 2 North to the northwest corner of

195 Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 5 East; thence south along
 196 the range line between Ranges 4 and 5 East to the southeast
 197 corner of Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 4 East; thence
 198 west along the Tallahassee Base Line to the northwest corner of
 199 Section 2, Township 1 South, Range 3 East; thence south along
 200 the section line to the Gulf of Mexico; thence along the shore
 201 of the Gulf of Mexico, including the waters of said gulf within
 202 the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, to the point of the
 203 beginning.

204 (c) St. Johns River Water Management District.--Begin at
 205 the intersection of the south boundary of Indian River County
 206 with the Atlantic Ocean; thence west along the Indian River-St.
 207 Lucie County line to the intersection of the west boundary of
 208 St. Lucie County; thence south along the Okeechobee-St. Lucie
 209 County line to the southeast corner of Section 1, Township 34
 210 South, Range 36 East; thence west along the section line to the
 211 northwest corner of Section 10, Township 34 South, Range 36
 212 East; thence south along the section line to the southeast
 213 corner of Section 9, Township 34 South, Range 36 East; thence
 214 west along the section line to the northwest corner of Section
 215 18, Township 34 South, Range 36 East; thence south along the
 216 range line between Ranges 35 and 36 East to the southeast corner
 217 of Section 12, Township 34 South, Range 35 East; thence west
 218 along the section line to the northwest corner of Section 13,
 219 Township 34 South, Range 35 East; thence south along the section
 220 line to the southeast corner of Section 35, Township 34 South,
 221 Range 35 East; thence west along the township line between
 222 Townships 34 and 35 south to the southwest corner of Section 35,

223 Township 34 South, Range 34 East; thence north along the section
 224 line to the Okeechobee-Osceola County line; thence west along
 225 the Okeechobee-Osceola County line to the southwest corner of
 226 Section 34, Township 32 South, Range 33 East; thence north along
 227 the section line to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township
 228 31 South, Range 33 East; thence east along the township line
 229 between Townships 30 and 31 South to the southeast corner of
 230 Section 36, Township 30 South, Range 33 East; thence north along
 231 the range line between Ranges 33 and 34 East to the northeast
 232 corner of Section 1, Township 30 South, Range 33 East; thence
 233 west along the township line between Townships 29 and 30 south
 234 to the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 29 South, Range
 235 33 East; thence north along the range line between Ranges 32 and
 236 33 East to the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 28 South,
 237 Range 33 East; thence east along the township line between
 238 Townships 27 and 28 south to the southeast corner of Section 36,
 239 Township 27 South, Range 32 East; thence north along the range
 240 line between Ranges 32 and 33 East to the northeast corner of
 241 Section 1, Township 26 South, Range 32 East; thence west along
 242 the township line between Townships 25 and 26 South to the
 243 southwest corner of Section 33, Township 25 South, Range 32
 244 East; thence north along the section line to the Orange-Osceola
 245 County line; thence westerly along the Orange-Osceola County
 246 line to the Southwest corner of Section 31, Township 24 South,
 247 Range 32 East; thence north along the range line to the
 248 intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of State Road
 249 528, also known as the Bee Line Expressway; thence westerly
 250 along the northerly right-of-way line of State Road 528 to the

251 intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of State Road
252 528A; thence westerly along the northerly right-of-way line of
253 State Road 528A to the westerly right-of-way line of U.S.
254 Highway 441; thence northerly along the right-of-way line to the
255 section line between sections 22 and 27 of Township 22 South,
256 Range 29 East; thence west along the section lines to the
257 Northeast corner of Section 25, Township 22 South, Range 28
258 East; thence south along the range line between Ranges 28 and 29
259 East to the Southeast corner of Section 36, Township 22 South,
260 Range 28 East; thence west along the township line between
261 Townships 22 and 23 South to the Northeast corner of Section 2,
262 Township 23 South, Range 27 East; thence south to the Southeast
263 corner of Section 11, Township 23 South, Range 27 East; thence
264 west along the section lines to the Southwest corner of Section
265 7, Township 23 South, Range 27 East, also being the Lake-Orange
266 County line; thence south along the range line between Ranges 26
267 and 27 East to the Lake-Polk County line; thence west along the
268 county line to the southwest corner of Section 32, Township 24
269 South, Range 26 East; thence into Lake County, north along the
270 section lines to the northeast corner of Section 30, Township 24
271 South, Range 26 East; thence west along the section lines to the
272 northeast corner of Section 28, Township 24 South, Range 25
273 East; thence north along the section lines to the northeast
274 corner of Section 16, Township 24 South, Range 25 East; thence
275 west along the section line to the northwest corner of Section
276 16, Township 24 South, Range 25 East; thence north along the
277 section line to the northeast corner of Section 8, Township 24
278 South, Range 25 East; thence west along the section lines to the

279 range line between Ranges 24 and 25; thence north along the
 280 range line to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 23
 281 South, Range 24 East, also being on the township line between
 282 Townships 22 and 23 South; thence west along the township line
 283 to the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 23 South, Range
 284 24 East, also being on the Sumter-Lake County line; thence north
 285 along the Sumter-Lake County line, also being the range line
 286 between Ranges 23 and 24 East, to the northeast corner of
 287 Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 23 East, and the Marion
 288 County line; thence west along the Sumter-Marion County line,
 289 also being the township line between Townships 17 and 18 South,
 290 to the westerly right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 75;
 291 thence northerly along the westerly right-of-way line of
 292 Interstate Highway 75 to the Alachua-Marion County line, said
 293 line also being the township line between Townships 11 and 12
 294 South; thence west along the Alachua-Marion County line to the
 295 northwest corner of Section 3, Township 12 South, Range 19 East,
 296 and the Levy County line; thence westerly along the Levy-Alachua
 297 County line, also being the township line between Townships 11
 298 and 12 South, to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 11
 299 South, Range 18 East; thence north along the range line between
 300 Ranges 18 and 19 East to the northwest corner of Section 19,
 301 Township 9 South, Range 19 East; thence east along the section
 302 line to the southeast corner of Section 13, Township 9 South,
 303 Range 19 East; thence north along the range line between Ranges
 304 19 and 20 East to the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 9
 305 South, Range 20 East; thence easterly along the township line
 306 between Townships 8 and 9 South to the southeast corner of

307 Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 20 East; thence north along
308 the range line between Ranges 20 and 21 East to the northwest
309 corner of Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 21 East; thence
310 east along the section line to the northeast corner of Section
311 15, Township 8 South, Range 21 East; thence south along the
312 section line to the southwest corner of Section 23, Township 8
313 South, Range 21 East; thence east along the section line to the
314 northeast corner of Section 26, Township 8 South, Range 21 East;
315 thence south along the section line to the southwest corner of
316 the north 1/2 of Section 25, Township 8 South, Range 21 East;
317 thence east to the northeast corner of the south 1/2 of Section
318 25, Township 8 South, Range 21 East; thence south along the
319 range line between Ranges 21 and 22 East to the southwest corner
320 of Section 30, Township 8 South, Range 22 East; thence east
321 along the section line to the northeast corner of Section 32,
322 Township 8 South, Range 22 East; thence south along the section
323 line to the southwest corner of Section 16, Township 9 South,
324 Range 22 East; thence eastward along the section line to the
325 southeast corner of the west 1/8 of Section 18, Township 9
326 South, Range 23 East; thence northward to the northeast corner
327 of the west 1/8 of Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 23 East;
328 thence west to the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 9
329 South, Range 23 East; thence northward along the Bradford-Clay
330 County line to the northeast corner of Section 36, Township 8
331 South, Range 22 East; thence west along the section line to the
332 southwest corner of the east 1/2 of Section 25, Township 8
333 South, Range 22 East; thence north to the northeast corner of
334 the west 1/2 of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East;

335 | thence west along the section line to the southwest corner of
 336 | Section 13, Township 8 South, Range 22 East; thence north along
 337 | the section line to the northwest corner of Section 25, Township
 338 | 7 South, Range 22 East; thence east along the section line to
 339 | the Bradford-Clay County line; thence north along the Bradford-
 340 | Clay County line to the intersection of the south boundary of
 341 | Baker County; thence west along the Baker-Bradford County line
 342 | to the intersection of the east boundary of Union County; thence
 343 | west along the Baker-Union County line to the southwest corner
 344 | of Section 18, Township 4 South, Range 20 East; thence north
 345 | along the range line between Ranges 19 and 20 East to the
 346 | northeast corner of Section 1, Township 3 South, Range 19 East;
 347 | thence west along the township line between Townships 2 and 3
 348 | South to the Baker-Columbia County line; thence north along the
 349 | Baker-Columbia County line to the north boundary line of the
 350 | State of Florida; thence easterly along the Florida-Georgia line
 351 | to the Atlantic Ocean; thence southerly along the Atlantic
 352 | Ocean, including the waters of said ocean within the
 353 | jurisdiction of the State of Florida to the point of beginning.

354 | (d) Southwest Florida Water Management District.--Begin at
 355 | the intersection of the north boundary of Lee County with the
 356 | Gulf of Mexico; thence eastward along the Lee-Charlotte County
 357 | line to the Southeast corner of Section 33, Township 42 South,
 358 | Range 24 East; thence North into Charlotte County, along the
 359 | section lines to the Northeast corner of Section 4, Township 42
 360 | South, Range 24 East; thence East along the township line
 361 | between Townships 41 and 42 South to the Southeast corner of
 362 | Section 36, Township 41 South, Range 25 East; thence north along

363 the section line to the northwest corner of Section 6, Township
 364 41 South, Range 26 East; thence east along the section line to
 365 the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 40 South, Range 26
 366 East; thence North along the range line between Ranges 26 and 27
 367 to the Northeast corner of Section 1, Township 40 South, Range
 368 26 East, and the Charlotte-Desoto County line; thence east along
 369 the Charlotte-Desoto County line to the southeast corner of
 370 Section 36, Township 39 South, Range 27 East; thence north along
 371 the DeSoto-Highlands County line to the intersection of the
 372 South boundary of Hardee County; thence north along the Hardee-
 373 Highlands County line to the southwest corner of Township 35
 374 South, Range 28 East; thence east along the north boundary of
 375 Township 36 South to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township
 376 36 South, Range 28 East; thence south along the range line to
 377 the southeast corner of Section 12, Township 37 South, Range 28
 378 East; thence east along the section line to the northeast corner
 379 of Section 15, Township 37 South, Range 29 East; thence south
 380 along the section line to the southeast corner of Section 34,
 381 Township 37 South, Range 29 East; thence east along the township
 382 line to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 38 South,
 383 Range 29 East; thence south along the range line to the
 384 southeast corner of Section 1, Township 39 South, Range 29 East;
 385 thence east along the section line to the northwest corner of
 386 Section 11, Township 39 South, Range 30 East; thence north along
 387 the section line to the southwest corner of Section 35, Township
 388 38 South, Range 30 East; thence east along the township line to
 389 the southeast corner of the west 1/4 of Section 35, Township 38
 390 South, Range 30 East; thence north along the 1/4-section line of

391 Sections 35, 26, and 23, Township 38 South, Range 30 East to the
 392 northeast corner of the west 1/4 section of Section 23, Township
 393 38 South, Range 30 East; thence west along the section line to
 394 the northwest corner of Section 23, Township 38 South, Range 30
 395 East; thence north along the section line to the northwest
 396 corner of Section 2, Township 37 South, Range 30 East; thence
 397 west along the township line to the southwest corner of Section
 398 34, Township 36 South, Range 30 East; thence north along the
 399 section line to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 36
 400 South, Range 30 East; thence west along the township line to the
 401 southwest corner of Section 31, Township 35 South, Range 30
 402 East; thence north along the range line between Ranges 29 and 30
 403 East, through Townships 35, 34, and 33 South, to the northeast
 404 corner of Township 33 South, Range 29 East, being on the
 405 Highlands-Polk County line; thence west along the Highlands-Polk
 406 County line to the southeast corner of Township 32 South, Range
 407 28 East; thence north along the range line between Ranges 28 and
 408 29 East, in Townships 32 and 31 South, to the northeast corner
 409 of Section 12 in Township 31 South, Range 28 East; thence east
 410 along the section line to the northeast corner of Section 7,
 411 Township 31 South, Range 29 East; thence north along the section
 412 line to the northwest corner of Section 17, Township 30 South,
 413 Range 29 East; thence east along the section line to the
 414 northeast corner of the west 1/2 of Section 17, Township 30
 415 South, Range 29 East; thence north along the 1/2-section line to
 416 the northeast corner of the west 1/2 of Section 5, Township 30
 417 South, Range 29 East; thence west along the section line to the
 418 southwest corner of Section 32, Township 29 South, Range 29

419 East; thence north along the section line to the northeast
420 corner of Section 19 in Township 29 South, Range 29 East; thence
421 west along the north boundaries of Section 19, Township 29
422 South, Range 29 East, and Sections 24, 23, 22, 21, and 20,
423 Township 29 South, Range 28 East, to the northwest corner of
424 said Section 20; thence north along the section line to the
425 intersection of said section line with the west shore line of
426 Lake Pierce in Township 29 South, Range 28 East; thence
427 following the west shore of Lake Pierce to its intersection
428 again with the west section line of Section 5, Township 29
429 South, Range 28 East; thence north along the section line to the
430 northwest corner of Section 5, Township 29 South, Range 28 East;
431 thence east along the township line to the southwest corner of
432 Section 33, Township 28 South, Range 28 East; thence north along
433 the section line to the northwest corner of the southwest 1/4 of
434 the southwest 1/4 of Section 28, Township 28 South, Range 28
435 East; thence east along the 1/4-section line to the intersection
436 of said 1/4-section line with Lake Pierce; thence follow the
437 shore line northeasterly to its intersection with the 1/2-
438 section line of Section 28, Township 28 South, Range 28 East;
439 thence north on the 1/2-section line to the northwest corner of
440 the southeast 1/4 of Section 28, Township 28 South, Range 28
441 East; thence east to the northeast corner of the southeast 1/4
442 of Section 28, Township 28 South, Range 28 East; thence south
443 along the section line to the northwest corner of Section 3,
444 Township 29 South, Range 28 East; thence east along the section
445 line to the northeast corner of Section 3, Township 29 South,
446 Range 28 East; thence north along the section line to the

447 northwest corner of Section 23, Township 28 South, Range 28
 448 East; thence west along the section line to the southwest corner
 449 of Section 16, Township 28 South, Range 28 East; thence north
 450 along the section line to the northwest corner of Section 16,
 451 Township 28 South, Range 28 East; thence west along the section
 452 line to the southwest corner of Section 8, Township 28 South,
 453 Range 28 East; thence north along the section line to the
 454 northwest corner of Section 5, Township 28 South, Range 28 East;
 455 thence west along the township line to the intersection of said
 456 township line with Lake Marion; thence following the south shore
 457 line of Lake Marion to its intersection again with said township
 458 line; thence west along the township line to the southeast
 459 corner of Section 36, Township 37 South, Range 27 East; thence
 460 north along the range line between Ranges 27 and 28 East to the
 461 intersection of said range line with Lake Marion; thence
 462 following the west shore of Lake Marion to its intersection
 463 again with the range line between Ranges 27 and 28 East; thence
 464 north along said range line, in Townships 27 and 26 South, to
 465 the northeast corner of Township 26 South, Range 27 East, being
 466 on the Polk-Osceola County line; thence west along the Polk-
 467 Osceola County line to the northwest corner of Township 26
 468 South, Range 27 East; thence north along the section line to the
 469 Lake-Polk County line; thence west along the county line to the
 470 southwest corner of Section 32, Township 24 South, Range 26
 471 East; thence into Lake County, north along the section lines to
 472 the northeast corner of Section 30, Township 24 South, Range 26
 473 East; thence west along the section lines to the northeast
 474 corner of Section 28, Township 24 South, Range 25 East; thence

475 north along the section lines to the northeast corner of Section
476 16, Township 24 South, Range 25 East; thence west along the
477 section line to the northwest corner of Section 16, Township 24
478 South, Range 25 East; thence north along the section line to the
479 northeast corner of Section 8, Township 24 South, Range 25 East;
480 thence west along the section lines to the range line between
481 Ranges 24 and 25; thence north along the range line to the
482 northeast corner of Section 1, Township 23 South, Range 24 East,
483 also being on the township line between Townships 22 and 23
484 South; thence west along the township line to the northwest
485 corner of Section 6, Township 23 South, Range 24 East also being
486 on the Sumter-Lake County line; thence north along the Sumter-
487 Lake County line, also being the range line between Ranges 23
488 and 24, to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 18 South,
489 Range 23 East and the Marion County line; thence west, along the
490 Sumter-Marion County line, also being the township line between
491 Townships 17 and 18 South, to the westerly right-of-way line of
492 Interstate Highway 75; thence northerly along the westerly
493 right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 75 to the Alachua-Marion
494 County line, said line also being the township line between
495 Townships 11 and 12 South; thence west along the Alachua-Marion
496 County line to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 12
497 South, Range 19 East and the Levy County line; thence westerly
498 along the Levy-Alachua County line, also being the township line
499 between Townships 11 and 12 South, to the southeast corner of
500 Section 36, Township 11 South, Range 17 East; thence north along
501 the Levy-Alachua County line, also being the range line between
502 Ranges 17 and 18 East, to the southerly right-of-way line of

503 State Road No. 24; thence southwesterly along said southerly
 504 right-of-way line to the easterly right-of-way line of State
 505 Road No. 337; thence southerly, along said easterly right-of-way
 506 line of State Road No. 337, to the south line of Section 35,
 507 Township 14 South, Range 17 East; thence west along the section
 508 line to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 15 South,
 509 Range 17 East; thence south along the section lines to the
 510 southwest corner of Section 27, Township 15 South, Range 17
 511 East; thence west to the Gulf of Mexico; thence south along the
 512 Gulf of Mexico, including the waters of said gulf within the
 513 jurisdiction of the State of Florida, to the point of beginning.

514 (e) South Florida Water Management District.--Begin at the
 515 intersection of the north boundary of Lee County with the Gulf
 516 of Mexico; thence easterly along the Lee-Charlotte County line
 517 to the southwest corner of Section 34, Township 42 South, Range
 518 24 East; thence northerly along the section lines to the
 519 northwest corner of Section 3, Township 42 South, Range 24 East;
 520 thence easterly along the Township line between Townships 41 and
 521 42 South to the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 41
 522 South, Range 26 East; thence northerly along the Range line
 523 between Ranges 25 and 26 East to the northwest corner of Section
 524 6, Township 41 South, Range 26 East; thence easterly along the
 525 Township line between Townships 40 and 41 South to the southwest
 526 corner of Section 31, Township 40 South, Range 27 East; thence
 527 northerly along the Range line between Ranges 26 and 27 East to
 528 the Charlotte-DeSoto County line; thence easterly along the
 529 Charlotte-Desoto County line to the west line of Highlands
 530 County; thence northerly along the Highlands-Desoto County line

531 and along the Highlands-Hardee County line to the northwest
 532 corner of Township 36 South, Range 28 East; thence east along
 533 the north boundary of Township 36 South to the northeast corner
 534 of Section 1, Township 36 South, Range 28 East; thence south
 535 along the range line to the southeast corner of Section 12,
 536 Township 37 South, Range 28 East; thence east along the section
 537 line to the northeast corner of Section 15, Township 37 South,
 538 Range 29 East; thence south along the section line to the
 539 southeast corner of Section 34, Township 37 South, Range 29
 540 East; thence east along the township line to the northeast
 541 corner of Section 1, Township 38 South, Range 29 East; thence
 542 south along the range line to the southeast corner of Section 1,
 543 Township 39 South, Range 29 East; thence east along the section
 544 line to the northwest corner of Section 11, Township 39 South,
 545 Range 30 East; thence north along the section line to the
 546 southwest corner of Section 35, Township 38 South, Range 30
 547 East; thence east along the township line to the southeast
 548 corner of the west 1/4 of Section 35, Township 38 South, Range
 549 30 East; thence north along the 1/4-section line of Sections 35,
 550 26, and 23, Township 38 South, Range 30 East to the northeast
 551 corner of the west 1/4 section of Section 23, Township 38 South,
 552 Range 30 East; thence west along the section line to the
 553 northwest corner of Section 23, Township 38 South, Range 30
 554 East; thence north along the section line to the northwest
 555 corner of Section 2, Township 37 South, Range 30 East; thence
 556 west along the township line to the southwest corner of Section
 557 34, Township 36 South, Range 30 East; thence north along the
 558 section line to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 36

559 South, Range 30 East; thence west along the township line to the
560 southwest corner of Section 31, Township 35 South, Range 30
561 East; thence north along the range line between Ranges 29 and 30
562 East, through Townships 35, 34, and 33 South, to the northwest
563 corner of Township 33 South, Range 30 East, being on the
564 Highlands-Polk County line; thence west along the Highlands-Polk
565 County line to the southwest corner of Township 32 South, Range
566 29 East; thence north along the range line between Ranges 28 and
567 29 East, in Townships 32 and 31 South, to the northwest corner
568 of Section 7 in Township 31 South, Range 29 East; thence east
569 along the section line to the northeast corner of Section 7,
570 Township 31 South, Range 29 East; thence north along the section
571 line to the northwest corner of Section 17, Township 30 South,
572 Range 29 East; thence east along the section line to the
573 northeast corner of the west 1/2 of Section 17, Township 30
574 South, Range 29 East; thence north along the 1/2-section line to
575 the northeast corner of the west 1/2 of Section 5, Township 30
576 South, Range 29 East; thence west along the section line to the
577 southwest corner of Section 32, Township 29 South, Range 29
578 East; thence north along the section line to the northeast
579 corner of Section 19 in Township 29 South, Range 29 East; thence
580 west along the south boundaries of Section 18, Township 29
581 South, Range 29 East and Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 in
582 Township 29 South, Range 28 East, to the southwest corner of
583 said Section 17; thence north along the section line to the
584 intersection of said section line with the west shore line of
585 Lake Pierce in Township 29 South, Range 28 East; thence
586 following the west shore of Lake Pierce to its intersection

587 again with the west section line of Section 5, Township 29
588 South, Range 28 East; thence north along the section line to the
589 northwest corner of Section 5, Township 29 South, Range 28 East;
590 thence east along the township line to the southwest corner of
591 Section 33, Township 28 South, Range 28 East; thence north along
592 the section line to the northwest corner of the southwest 1/4 of
593 the southwest 1/4 of Section 28, Township 28 South, Range 28
594 East; thence east along the 1/4-section line to the intersection
595 of said 1/4-section line with Lake Pierce; thence follow the
596 shore line northeasterly to its intersection with the 1/2-
597 section line of Section 28, Township 28 South, Range 28 East;
598 thence north on the 1/2-section line to the northwest corner of
599 the southeast 1/4 of Section 28, Township 28 South, Range 28
600 East; thence east along the 1/2-section line to the northeast
601 corner of the southeast 1/4 of Section 28, Township 28 South,
602 Range 28 East; thence south along the section line to the
603 northwest corner of Section 3, Township 29 South, Range 28 East;
604 thence east along the section line to the northeast corner of
605 Section 3, Township 29 South, Range 28 East; thence north along
606 the section line to the northwest corner of Section 23, Township
607 28 South, Range 28 East; thence west along the section line to
608 the southwest corner of Section 16, Township 28 South, Range 28
609 East; thence north along the section line to the northwest
610 corner of Section 16, Township 28 South, Range 28 East; thence
611 west along the section line to the southwest corner of Section
612 8, Township 28 South, Range 28 East; thence north along the
613 section line to the northwest corner of Section 5, Township 28
614 South, Range 28 East; thence west along the township line to the

615 intersection of said township line with Lake Marion; thence
616 following the south shore line of Lake Marion to its
617 intersection again with said township line; thence west along
618 the township line to the southeast corner of Section 36,
619 Township 27 South, Range 27 East; thence north along the range
620 line between Ranges 27 and 28 East to the intersection of said
621 range line with Lake Marion; thence following the west shore of
622 Lake Marion to its intersection again with the range line
623 between Ranges 27 and 28 East; thence north along said range
624 line, in Townships 27 and 26 South, to the northwest corner of
625 Township 26 South, Range 28 East, being on the Polk-Osceola
626 County line; thence west along the Polk-Osceola County line to
627 the southwest corner of Township 25 South, Range 27 East; thence
628 northerly along the range line between Ranges 26 and 27 East to
629 the northwest corner of Section 18, Township 23 South, Range 27
630 East; thence easterly along the section lines to the southwest
631 corner of Section 12, Township 23 South, Range 27 East; thence
632 northerly along the section lines to the northwest corner of
633 Section 1, Township 23 South, Range 27 East; thence easterly
634 along the Township line between Townships 22 and 23 South to the
635 southwest corner of Section 31, Township 22 South, Range 29
636 East; thence northerly along the Range line between Ranges 28
637 and 29 East to the northwest corner of Section 30, Township 22
638 South, Range 29 East; thence easterly along the section lines to
639 the westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 441; thence
640 southerly along the westerly right-of-way line to the
641 intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of State Road
642 528A; thence easterly along the northerly right-of-way line to

643 the intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of State
644 Road 528, also known as the Bee Line Expressway; thence easterly
645 along the northerly right-of-way line of State Road 528 to the
646 intersection with the range line between Township 23 South,
647 Range 31 East and Township 23 South, Range 32 East; thence
648 southerly along the Range line between Ranges 31 and 32 East to
649 the Orange-Osceola County line; thence easterly along said
650 county line between Townships 24 and 25 South to the northeast
651 corner of Section 5, Township 25 South, Range 32 East; thence
652 southerly along the section lines to the southeast corner of
653 Section 32, Township 25 South, Range 32 East; thence easterly
654 along the Township line between Townships 25 and 26 South to the
655 northeast corner of Section 1, Township 26 South, Range 32 East;
656 thence southerly along the Range line between Ranges 32 and 33
657 East to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 27 South,
658 Range 32 East; thence westerly along the township line between
659 Townships 27 and 28 South, to the northeast corner of Section 1,
660 Township 28 South, Range 32 East; thence southerly along the
661 Range line between Ranges 32 and 33 East to the southeast corner
662 of Section 36, Township 29 South, Range 32 East; thence easterly
663 along the Township line between Townships 29 and 30 South to the
664 northeast corner of Section 1, Township 30 South, Range 33 East;
665 thence southerly along the Range line between Ranges 33 and 34
666 East to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 30 South,
667 Range 33 East; thence westerly along the Township line between
668 Townships 30 and 31 South to the northeast corner of Section 4,
669 Township 31 South, Range 33 East; thence southerly along the
670 section lines to the Osceola-Okeechobee County line; thence

671 easterly along said county line to the northeast corner of
672 Section 3, Township 33 South, Range 34 East; thence southerly
673 along the section lines to the southeast corner of Section 34,
674 Township 34 South, Range 34 East; thence easterly along the
675 Township line between Townships 34 and 35 South to the southwest
676 corner of Section 36, Township 34 South, Range 35 East; thence
677 northerly along the section lines to the northwest corner of
678 Section 13, Township 34 South, Range 35 East; thence easterly
679 along the section line to the Range line between Ranges 35 and
680 36 East; thence northerly along said Range line to the northwest
681 corner of Section 18, Township 34 South, Range 36 East; thence
682 easterly along the section lines to the southwest corner of
683 Section 10, Township 34 south, Range 36 East; thence northerly
684 along the section line to the northwest corner of said Section
685 10; thence easterly along the section lines to the Okeechobee-
686 St. Lucie County line; thence northerly along said county line
687 to the south line of Indian River County; thence easterly along
688 the St. Lucie-Indian River County line to the Atlantic Ocean;
689 thence southerly along the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico;
690 thence northerly along the Gulf of Mexico, including the waters
691 of said Ocean and of said Gulf and the islands therein within
692 the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, to the point of
693 beginning.

694 Section 2. Section 373.0693, Florida Statutes, is
695 reenacted, and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of that section
696 is amended, to read:

697 373.0693 Basins; basin boards.--

698 (1) (a) Any areas within a district may be designated by
699 the district governing board as subdistricts or basins. The
700 designations of such basins shall be made by the district
701 governing board by resolutions thereof. The governing board of
702 the district may change the boundaries of such basins, or create
703 new basins, by resolution.

704 (b) No subdistrict or basin in the St. Johns River Water
705 Management District other than established by this act shall
706 become effective until approved by the Legislature.

707 (2) Each basin shall be under the control of a basin board
708 which shall be composed of not less than three members, but
709 shall include one representative from each of the counties
710 included in the basin.

711 (3) Each member of the various basin boards shall serve
712 for a period of 3 years or until a successor is appointed,
713 except that the board membership of each new basin shall be
714 divided into three groups as equally as possible, with members
715 in such groups to be appointed for 1, 2, and 3 years,
716 respectively. Each basin board shall choose a vice chair and a
717 secretary to serve for a period of 1 year. The term of office of
718 a basin board member shall be construed to commence on March 2
719 preceding the date of appointment and to terminate March 1 of
720 the year of the end of a term.

721 (4) Members of basin boards shall be appointed by the
722 Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate at the next
723 regular session of the Legislature; and the refusal or failure
724 of the Senate to confirm an appointment shall create a vacancy
725 in the office to which the appointment was made.

726 (5) Basin board members shall receive no compensation for
727 services as such; but, while officially on work for the
728 district, they shall receive their actual travel expenses
729 between their respective places of residence and the place where
730 official district business is conducted, subsistence, lodging,
731 and other expenses in the amount actually incurred. These
732 expenses may not exceed the statutory amount allowed state
733 officers and employees. This subsection applies retroactively to
734 the effective date of the creation of each of the five separate
735 water management districts.

736 (6) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other general
737 or special law to the contrary, a member of the governing board
738 of the district residing in the basin or, if no member resides
739 in the basin, a member of the governing board designated by the
740 chair of the governing board shall be the ex officio chair of
741 the basin board. The ex officio chair shall preside at all
742 meetings of the basin board, except that the vice chair may
743 preside in his or her absence. The ex officio chair shall have
744 no official vote, except in case of a tie vote being cast by the
745 members, but shall be the liaison officer of the district in all
746 affairs in the basin and shall be kept informed of all such
747 affairs.

748 (b) Basin boards within the Southwest Florida Water
749 Management District shall meet regularly as determined by a
750 majority vote of the basin board members. Subject to notice
751 requirements of chapter 120, special meetings, both emergency
752 and nonemergency, may be called either by the ex officio chair
753 or the elected vice chair of the basin board or upon request of

754 two basin board members. The district staff shall include on the
755 agenda of any basin board meeting any item for discussion or
756 action requested by a member of that basin board. The district
757 staff shall notify any basin board, as well as their respective
758 counties, of any vacancies occurring in the district governing
759 board or their respective basin boards.

760 (7) At 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 1976, the Manasota
761 Watershed Basin of the Ridge and Lower Gulf Coast Water
762 Management District, which is annexed to the Southwest Florida
763 Water Management District by change of its boundaries pursuant
764 to chapter 76-243, Laws of Florida, shall be formed into a
765 subdistrict or basin of the Southwest Florida Water Management
766 District, subject to the same provisions as the other basins in
767 such district. Such subdistrict shall be designated initially as
768 the Manasota Basin. The members of the governing board of the
769 Manasota Watershed Basin of the Ridge and Lower Gulf Coast Water
770 Management District shall become members of the governing board
771 of the Manasota Basin of the Southwest Florida Water Management
772 District. Notwithstanding other provisions in this section,
773 beginning on July 1, 2001, the membership of the Manasota Basin
774 Board shall be comprised of three members from Manatee County
775 and three members from Sarasota County. Matters relating to tie
776 votes shall be resolved pursuant to subsection (6) by the ex
777 officio chair designated by the governing board to vote in case
778 of a tie vote.

779 (8) (a) At 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 1988, the area
780 transferred from the Southwest Florida Water Management District
781 to the St. Johns River Water Management District by change of

782 boundaries pursuant to chapter 76-243, Laws of Florida, shall
 783 cease to be a subdistrict or basin of the St. Johns River Water
 784 Management District known as the Oklawaha River Basin and said
 785 Oklawaha River Basin shall cease to exist. However, any
 786 recognition of an Oklawaha River Basin or an Oklawaha River
 787 Hydrologic Basin for regulatory purposes shall be unaffected.
 788 The area formerly known as the Oklawaha River Basin shall
 789 continue to be part of the St. Johns River Water Management
 790 District. ~~There shall be established by the governing board of~~
 791 ~~the St. Johns River Water Management District the Oklawaha River~~
 792 ~~Basin Advisory Council to receive public input and advise the~~
 793 ~~St. Johns River Water Management District's governing board on~~
 794 ~~water management issues affecting the Oklawaha River Basin. The~~
 795 ~~Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council shall be appointed by~~
 796 ~~action of the St. Johns River Water Management District's~~
 797 ~~governing board and shall include one representative from each~~
 798 ~~county which is wholly or partly included in the Oklawaha River~~
 799 ~~Basin. The St. Johns River Water Management District's governing~~
 800 ~~board member currently serving pursuant to s. 373.073(2)(c)3.~~
 801 ~~shall serve as chair of the Oklawaha River Basin Advisory~~
 802 ~~Council. Members of the Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council~~
 803 ~~shall receive no compensation for their services but are~~
 804 ~~entitled to be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as~~
 805 ~~provided in s. 112.061.~~

806 (b) Also, the entire area of the St. Johns River Water
 807 Management District, less those areas formerly in the Oklawaha
 808 Basin, shall cease to be a subdistrict or basin of the St. Johns
 809 River Water Management District known as the Greater St. Johns

810 River Basin and said Greater St. Johns River Basin shall cease
811 to exist. The area formerly known as the Greater St. Johns River
812 Basin shall continue to be part of the St. Johns River Water
813 Management District.

814 (c) As of 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 1988, assets and
815 liabilities of the former Oklawaha River and Greater St. Johns
816 River Basins shall be assets and liabilities of the St. Johns
817 River Water Management District. Any contracts, plans, orders,
818 or agreements of such basins shall continue to be in effect, but
819 may be modified or repealed by the St. Johns River Water
820 Management District in accordance with law. For all purposes for
821 assessing and levying the millage rate authorized under s.
822 373.503, subsequent to December 31, 1987, including the purposes
823 of certifying the millage rate for fiscal year 1988-1989,
824 pursuant to chapter 200, said millage rate shall be levied
825 retroactive to January 1, 1988.

826 (9) At 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 1976, a portion of the
827 Big Cypress Basin of the Ridge and Lower Gulf Coast District
828 which is being annexed into the South Florida Water Management
829 District by change of boundaries pursuant to chapter 76-243,
830 Laws of Florida, shall be formed into a subdistrict or basin of
831 the South Florida Water Management District. Such portion shall
832 be designated as the Big Cypress Basin. On or before December
833 31, 1976, the Governor shall appoint not fewer than five persons
834 residing in the area to serve as members of the governing board
835 of the basin, effective at the time of transfer and subject to
836 confirmation by the Senate as provided in subsection (4).

837 (a) The initial boundaries of the Big Cypress Basin shall
838 be established by resolution of the governing board of Central
839 and Southern Florida Flood Control District, after notice and
840 hearing, and generally shall encompass the Big Cypress Swamp and
841 southwestern coastal area hydrologic cataloging unit, as
842 indicated on River Basin and Hydrologic Unit Map of
843 Florida--1975, Florida Department of Natural Resources, Bureau
844 of Geology Map Series No. 72.

845 (b) If the governing board shall fail to establish the
846 initial boundaries on or before December 31, 1976, the initial
847 boundaries shall be the same boundaries as described for the Big
848 Cypress Basin of the Ridge and Lower Gulf Coast District.

849 (c) The governing board of the South Florida Water
850 Management District subsequently may change the boundaries of
851 the basin, but may not abolish the basin.

852 (10) At 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 1976, the entire area
853 of the South Florida Water Management District, including all
854 areas being annexed into the district pursuant to chapter 76-
855 243, Laws of Florida, but less those areas in the Big Cypress
856 Basin, shall be formed into a subdistrict or basin of the South
857 Florida Water Management District. Such area shall be designated
858 as the Okeechobee Basin.

859 (a) The governing board of the South Florida Water
860 Management District shall also serve as the governing board of
861 the Okeechobee Basin.

862 (b) The governing board of the South Florida Water
863 Management District may change the boundaries of the Okeechobee
864 Basin or may subdivide the basin into smaller basins to be

865 governed by basin boards to be appointed by the Governor,
866 subject to confirmation by the Senate as provided in subsection
867 (4). However, the basin may not be enlarged to include the area
868 included within the initial boundaries of the Big Cypress Basin.

869 (c) The local effort required in connection with
870 construction, operation, and maintenance of the cooperative
871 federal project referred to as the Central and Southern Florida
872 Flood Control Project, which remains after the upper St. Johns
873 portion is transferred to the St. Johns River Water Management
874 District, shall be funded by tax levies on all taxable property
875 within the Okeechobee Basin. In the event the Okeechobee Basin
876 is subdivided into smaller basins, as authorized in paragraph
877 (b), the governing board shall ascertain the equitable pro rata
878 share for each smaller basin and charge back such share so as to
879 ensure that the portion of the Central and Southern Florida
880 Flood Control Project remaining in the South Florida Water
881 Management District shall continue to be funded on an equal
882 basis throughout the entire Okeechobee Basin as initially
883 described on December 31, 1976.

884 Section 3. Section 373.0695, Florida Statutes, is
885 reenacted to read:

886 373.0695 Duties of basin boards; authorized
887 expenditures.--

888 (1) The various boards shall be responsible for
889 discharging the following described functions in their
890 respective basins:

891 (a) The preparation of engineering plans for development
 892 of the water resources of the basin and the conduct of public
 893 hearings on such plans.

894 (b) The development and preparation of overall basin plan
 895 of secondary water control facilities for the guidance of
 896 subdrainage districts and private land owners in the development
 897 of their respective systems of water control which will be
 898 connected to the primary works of the basin to complement the
 899 engineering plan of primary works for the basin.

900 (c) The preparation of the annual budget for the basin and
 901 the submission of such budget to the governing board of the
 902 district for inclusion in the district budget.

903 (d) The consideration and prior approval of final
 904 construction plans of the district for works to be constructed
 905 in the basin.

906 (e) The administration of the affairs of the basin.

907 (f) Planning for and, upon request by a county,
 908 municipality, private utility, or regional water supply
 909 authority, providing water supply and transmission facilities
 910 for the purpose of assisting such counties, municipalities,
 911 private utilities, or regional water supply authorities within
 912 or serving the basin.

913 (2) Basin board moneys shall be utilized for:

914 (a) Engineering studies of works of the basin.

915 (b) Payment for the preparation of final plans and
 916 specifications for construction of basin works executed by the
 917 district.

918 (c) Payment of costs of construction of works of the basin
 919 executed by the district.

920 (d) Payment for maintenance and operation of basin works
 921 as carried out by the district.

922 (e) Administrative and regulatory activities of the basin.

923 (f) Payment for real property interests for works of the
 924 basin.

925 (g) Payment of costs of road, bridge, railroad, and
 926 utilities modifications and changes resulting from basin works.

927 (3) The works of the basin shall be those adopted by the
 928 respective basin boards. Such works may be adopted jointly with
 929 other basins and may be within or without the area of the basin.

930 (4) In the exercise of the duties and powers granted
 931 herein, the basin boards shall be subject to all the limitations
 932 and restrictions imposed on the water management districts in s.
 933 373.1961.

934 Section 4. Section 373.073, Florida Statutes, is reenacted
 935 and amended to read:

936 373.073 Governing board.--

937 (1) (a) The governing board of each water management
 938 district shall be composed of 9 members who shall reside within
 939 the district, except that the Southwest Florida Water Management
 940 District shall be composed of 13 members who shall reside within
 941 the district. Members of the governing boards shall be nominated
 942 by the Florida Public Service Nominating Council created in s.
 943 350.031 and appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation
 944 by the Senate pursuant to subsection (5) at the next regular
 945 session of the Legislature, and the refusal or failure of the

946 Senate to confirm an appointment creates a vacancy in the office
 947 to which the appointment was made. The term of office for a
 948 governing board member is 4 years and commences on June ~~March~~ 2
 949 of the year in which the appointment is confirmed ~~made~~ and
 950 terminates on June ~~March~~ 1 of the fourth calendar year of the
 951 term or may continue until a successor is appointed, ~~but not~~
 952 ~~more than 180 days~~. Terms of office of governing board members
 953 shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and continuity
 954 in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize
 955 disruption in district operations.

956 (b) Commencing January 1, 1999, the Governor shall appoint
 957 the following number of governing board members in each year of
 958 the Governor's 4-year term of office:

959 1. In the first year of the Governor's term of office, the
 960 Governor shall appoint three members to the governing board of
 961 each district.

962 2. In the second year of the Governor's term of office,
 963 the Governor shall appoint three members to the governing board
 964 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and two
 965 members to the governing board of each other district.

966 3. In the third year of the Governor's term of office, the
 967 Governor shall appoint three members to the governing board of
 968 the Southwest Florida Water Management District and two members
 969 to the governing board of each other district.

970 4. In the fourth year of the Governor's term of office,
 971 the Governor shall appoint two members to the governing board of
 972 each district.

973

974 For any governing board vacancy that occurs before the date
 975 scheduled for the office to be filled under this paragraph, the
 976 nominating council shall nominate and the Governor shall appoint
 977 a person meeting residency requirements of subsection (2) for a
 978 term that will expire on the date scheduled for the term of that
 979 office to terminate under this subsection. In addition to the
 980 residency requirements for the governing boards as provided by
 981 subsection (2), the Governor shall consider appointing governing
 982 board members to represent an equitable cross-section of
 983 regional interests and technical expertise.

984 (2) A person may not be nominated to serve as a member of
 985 a water management district governing board until the nominating
 986 council has determined that the person has ~~Membership on~~
 987 ~~governing boards shall be selected from candidates who have~~
 988 significant experience in one or more of the following areas,
 989 including, but not limited to: agriculture, the development
 990 industry, local government, government-owned or privately owned
 991 water utilities, law, civil engineering, environmental science,
 992 hydrology, accounting, or financial businesses. The council
 993 shall nominate appointees to represent an equitable cross-
 994 section of regional interests and technical expertise.

995 Recommendations of the nominating council shall be nonpartisan.
 996 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other general or special
 997 law to the contrary, vacancies in the governing boards of the
 998 water management districts shall be filled according to the
 999 following residency requirements, representing areas designated
 1000 by the United States Water Resources Council in United States

1001 Geological Survey, River Basin and Hydrological Unit Map of
 1002 Florida--1975, Map Series No. 72:

1003 (a) Northwest Florida Water Management District:

1004 1. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1005 designated as the "Perdido River Basin-Perdido Bay Coastal Area-
 1006 Lower Conecuh River-Escambia River Basin" hydrologic units and
 1007 that portion of the "Escambia Bay Coastal Area" hydrologic unit
 1008 which lies west of Pensacola Bay and Escambia Bay.

1009 2. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1010 designated as the "Blackwater River Basin-Yellow River Basin-
 1011 Choctawhatchee Bay Coastal Area" hydrologic units and that
 1012 portion of the "Escambia Bay Coastal Area" hydrologic unit which
 1013 lies east of Pensacola Bay and Escambia Bay.

1014 3. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1015 designated as the "Choctawhatchee River Basin-St. Andrews Bay
 1016 Coastal Area" hydrologic units.

1017 4. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1018 designated as the "Lower Chattahoochee-Apalachicola River-
 1019 Chipola River Basin-Coastal Area between Ochlockonee River
 1020 Apalachicola Rivers-Apalachicola Bay coastal area and offshore
 1021 islands" hydrologic units.

1022 5. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1023 designated as the "Ochlockonee River Basin-St. Marks and Wakulla
 1024 Rivers and coastal area between Aucilla and Ochlockonee River
 1025 Basin" hydrologic units.

1026 6. Four members shall be appointed at large, except that
 1027 no county shall have more than two members on the governing
 1028 board.

- 1029 (b) Suwannee River Water Management District:
- 1030 1. One member shall reside in the area generally
- 1031 designated as the "Aucilla River Basin" hydrologic unit.
- 1032 2. One member shall reside in the area generally
- 1033 designated as the "Coastal Area between Suwannee and Aucilla
- 1034 Rivers" hydrologic unit.
- 1035 3. One member shall reside in the area generally
- 1036 designated as the "Withlacoochee River Basin-Alapaha River
- 1037 Basin-Suwannee River Basin above the Withlacoochee River"
- 1038 hydrologic units.
- 1039 4. One member shall reside in the area generally
- 1040 designated as the "Suwannee River Basin below the Withlacoochee
- 1041 River excluding the Santa Fe River Basin" hydrologic unit.
- 1042 5. One member shall reside in the area generally
- 1043 designated as the "Santa Fe Basin-Waccasassa River and coastal
- 1044 area between Withlacoochee and Suwannee River" hydrologic units.
- 1045 6. Four members shall be appointed at large, except that
- 1046 no county shall have more than two members on the governing
- 1047 board.
- 1048 (c) St. Johns River Water Management District:
- 1049 1. One member shall reside in the area generally
- 1050 designated as the "St. Marys River Basin-Coastal area between
- 1051 St. Marys and St. Johns Rivers" hydrologic units.
- 1052 2. One member shall reside in the area generally
- 1053 designated as the "St. Johns River Basin below Oklawaha River-
- 1054 Coastal area between the St. Johns River and Ponce de Leon
- 1055 Inlet" hydrologic units.

1056 3. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1057 designated as the "Oklawaha River Basin" hydrologic unit.

1058 4. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1059 designated as the "St. Johns River Basin above the Oklawaha
 1060 River" hydrologic unit.

1061 5. One member shall reside in the area generally
 1062 designated as the "Coastal area between Ponce de Leon Inlet and
 1063 Sebastian Inlet-Coastal area Sebastian Inlet to St. Lucie River"
 1064 hydrologic units.

1065 6. Four members shall be appointed at large, with at least
 1066 two members appointed from Orange County commencing on January
 1067 1, 2009, except that no county shall have more than two members
 1068 on the governing board.

1069 (d) South Florida Water Management District:

1070 1. Two members shall reside in Dade County.

1071 2. One member shall reside in Broward County.

1072 3. One member shall reside in Palm Beach County.

1073 4. One member shall reside in Collier County, Lee County,
 1074 Hendry County, or Charlotte County.

1075 5. One member shall reside in Glades County, Okeechobee
 1076 County, Highlands County, Polk County, Orange County, or Osceola
 1077 County.

1078 6. Two members, appointed at large, shall reside in an
 1079 area consisting of St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade,
 1080 and Monroe Counties.

1081 7. One member, appointed at large, shall reside in an area
 1082 consisting of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades, Osceola,
 1083 Okeechobee, Polk, Highlands, and Orange Counties.

1084 8. No county shall have more than three members on the
 1085 governing board.

1086 (e) Southwest Florida Water Management District:

1087 1. Two members shall reside in Hillsborough County.

1088 2. One member shall reside in the area consisting of
 1089 Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.

1090 3. Two members shall reside in Pinellas County.

1091 4. One member shall reside in Manatee County.

1092 5. Two members shall reside in Polk County.

1093 6. One member shall reside in Pasco County.

1094 7. One member shall be appointed at large from Levy,
 1095 Citrus, Sumter, and Lake Counties.

1096 8. One member shall be appointed at large from Hardee,
 1097 DeSoto, and Highlands Counties.

1098 9. One member shall be appointed at large from Marion and
 1099 Hernando Counties.

1100 10. One member shall be appointed at large from Sarasota
 1101 and Charlotte Counties.

1102 (3) It is the responsibility of the nominating council to
 1103 nominate to the Governor three persons for each vacancy on the
 1104 governing boards of any of the five water management districts.
 1105 The council shall submit the recommendations to the Governor by
 1106 December 31 for the seats of those governing board members whose
 1107 terms are to expire the following calendar year, or within 90
 1108 days after a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the
 1109 expiration of the term.

1110 (4) The Governor shall select from the list of nominees
 1111 provided by the nominating council. The Governor shall fill a

1112 vacancy occurring on the governing board of a water management
 1113 district by appointment of one of the applicants nominated by
 1114 the council only after a background investigation of such
 1115 applicant has been conducted by the Department of Law
 1116 Enforcement. If the Governor has not made an appointment within
 1117 60 consecutive calendar days after the receipt of the
 1118 recommendations, the council shall initiate, in accordance with
 1119 this section, the nominating process within 30 days.

1120 (5) Each appointment to the governing board of a water
 1121 management district shall be subject to confirmation by the
 1122 Senate during the next regular session after the vacancy occurs.
 1123 If the Senate refuses to confirm or fails to consider the
 1124 appointment of the Governor, the nominating council shall
 1125 initiate, in accordance with this section, the nominating
 1126 process within 30 days. Under no circumstances may an appointee
 1127 serve on the governing board of a water management district
 1128 until confirmed by the Senate.

1129 Section 5. Subsection (7) of section 373.079, Florida
 1130 Statutes, is amended to read:

1131 373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office;
 1132 staff.--

1133 (7) The governing board shall meet at least once a month
 1134 and upon call of the chair. The governing board, a basin board,
 1135 a committee, or an advisory board may conduct meetings by means
 1136 of communications media technology as provided in the uniform
 1137 rules of procedure adopted pursuant to s. 120.54.

1138 Section 6. Section 373.083, Florida Statutes, is reenacted
 1139 to read:

1140 373.083 General powers and duties of the governing
 1141 board.--In addition to other powers and duties allowed it by
 1142 law, the governing board is authorized to:

1143 (1) Contract with public agencies, private corporations,
 1144 or other persons; sue and be sued; and appoint and remove agents
 1145 and employees, including specialists and consultants.

1146 (2) Issue orders to implement or enforce any of the
 1147 provisions of this chapter or regulations thereunder.

1148 (3) Make surveys and investigations of the water supply
 1149 and resources of the district and cooperate with other
 1150 governmental agencies in similar activities.

1151 (4) Solicit and accept donations or grants of funds or
 1152 services from both public and private sources for the planning
 1153 and implementation of district undertakings and delegations,
 1154 including, but not limited to, projects, programs, works, and
 1155 studies.

1156 (5) Execute any of the powers, duties, and functions
 1157 vested in the governing board through a member or members
 1158 thereof, the executive director, or other district staff as
 1159 designated by the governing board. The governing board may
 1160 establish the scope and terms of any delegation. However, if the
 1161 governing board delegates the authority to take final action on
 1162 permit applications under part II or part IV, or petitions for
 1163 variances or waivers of permitting requirements under part II or
 1164 part IV, the governing board shall provide a process for
 1165 referring any denial of such application or petition to the
 1166 governing board to take final action. The authority in this
 1167 subsection is supplemental to any other provision of this

1168 chapter granting authority to the governing board to delegate
 1169 specific powers, duties, or functions.

1170 Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 373.323, Florida
 1171 Statutes, is amended to read:

1172 373.323 Licensure of water well contractors; application,
 1173 qualifications, and examinations; equipment identification.--

1174 (3) An applicant who meets the following requirements
 1175 shall be entitled to take the water well contractor licensure
 1176 examination ~~to practice water well contracting~~:

1177 (a) Is at least 18 years of age.

1178 (b) Has at least 2 years of experience in constructing,
 1179 repairing, or abandoning water wells. Satisfactory proof of such
 1180 experience shall be demonstrated by providing:

1181 1. Evidence of the length of time the applicant has been
 1182 engaged in the business of the construction, abandonment, and
 1183 repair of water wells as a major activity, as attested to by
 1184 three letters from any of the following persons:

1185 a. Water well contractors.

1186 b. Water well drillers.

1187 c. Water well parts and equipment vendors.

1188 d. Water well inspectors employed by a governmental
 1189 agency.

1190 2. A list of at least 10 water wells that the applicant
 1191 has constructed, repaired, or abandoned, which includes the
 1192 following information:

1193 a. The name and address of the owner or owners of each
 1194 well.

1195 b. The location, primary use, and approximate depth and
 1196 diameter of each well that the applicant has constructed,
 1197 repaired, or abandoned.

1198 c. The approximate date the construction, repair, or
 1199 abandonment of each well was completed.

1200 3. All listed wells must have been constructed, repaired,
 1201 or abandoned within 5 years immediately preceding the filing of
 1202 the license application. At least 7 of the 10 water wells must
 1203 have been constructed by the applicant, as defined in s.
 1204 373.303(2).

1205 (c) Has completed the application form and remitted a
 1206 nonrefundable application fee.

1207 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 1208 373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (5) is
 1209 renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added
 1210 to that section, to read:

1211 373.503 Manner of taxation.--

1212 (3)(a) Subject to annual authorization by the Legislature
 1213 to levy ad valorem taxes under subsection (5), the districts may
 1214 levy ad valorem taxes on property within the district solely for
 1215 the purposes of this chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of
 1216 Florida, as amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as
 1217 amended. The authority to levy ad valorem taxes as provided in
 1218 this act shall commence with the year 1977. However, the taxes
 1219 levied for 1977 by the governing boards pursuant to this section
 1220 shall be prorated to ensure that no such taxes will be levied
 1221 for the first 4 days of the tax year, which days will fall prior
 1222 to the effective date of the amendment to s. 9(b), Art. VII of

1223 the State Constitution, which was approved March 9, 1976. When
 1224 appropriate, taxes levied by each governing board may be
 1225 separated by the governing board into a millage necessary for
 1226 the purposes of the district and a millage necessary for
 1227 financing basin functions specified in s. 373.0695. ~~Beginning~~
 1228 ~~with the taxing year 1977, and~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of
 1229 any other general or special law to the contrary and subject to
 1230 annual authorization by the Legislature to levy ad valorem taxes
 1231 under subsection (5), the maximum total millage rate for
 1232 district and basin purposes shall be:

- 1233 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 1234 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 1235 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 1236 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.
- 1237 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.

1238 (5) To ensure that the taxes authorized by this chapter
 1239 continue to be in proportion to the benefits derived by the
 1240 several parcels of real estate within the districts, the
 1241 Legislature shall annually review the authorized millage rate
 1242 for each district and annually set the maximum amount of revenue
 1243 authorized to be raised by each district from the taxes
 1244 authorized by this chapter. However, if the annual maximum
 1245 amount of revenue authorized to be raised by each district is
 1246 not set by the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year,
 1247 each district is authorized to raise the amount of revenue
 1248 authorized by the Legislature in the preceding fiscal year and
 1249 adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index
 1250 for the preceding fiscal year.

1251 Section 9. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (c),
 1252 (e), and (f) of subsection (5) of section 373.536, Florida
 1253 Statutes, are amended, to read:

1254 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

1255 (1) FISCAL YEAR.--The fiscal year of districts created
 1256 under the provisions of this chapter shall extend from July
 1257 ~~October~~ 1 of one year through June ~~September~~ 30 of the following
 1258 year.

1259 (2) BUDGET SUBMITTAL.--The budget officer of the district
 1260 shall, ~~on or before July 15 of each year,~~ submit for
 1261 consideration by the governing board of the district a tentative
 1262 budget for the district covering its proposed operations and
 1263 funding requirements for the ensuing fiscal year.

1264 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND
 1265 APPROVAL.--

1266 (c) Each water management district shall, by February
 1267 ~~August~~ 1 of each year, submit for review a tentative budget to
 1268 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
 1269 House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative
 1270 committees and subcommittees with substantive or fiscal
 1271 jurisdiction over water management districts, as determined by
 1272 the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of
 1273 Representatives as applicable, the secretary of the department,
 1274 and the governing body of each county in which the district has
 1275 jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the
 1276 district.

1277 ~~(e) By September 5 of the year in which the budget is~~
 1278 ~~submitted, the House and Senate appropriations chairs may~~

1279 ~~transmit to each district comments and objections to the~~
 1280 ~~proposed budgets. Each district governing board shall include a~~
 1281 ~~response to such comments and objections in the record of the~~
 1282 ~~governing board meeting where final adoption of the budget takes~~
 1283 ~~place, and the record of this meeting shall be transmitted to~~
 1284 ~~the Executive Office of the Governor, the department, and the~~
 1285 ~~chairs of the House and Senate appropriations committees.~~

1286 (e)~~(f)~~ The Executive Office of the Governor shall
 1287 annually, on or before September~~December~~ 15, file with the
 1288 Legislature a report that summarizes its review of the water
 1289 management districts' tentative budgets and displays the adopted
 1290 budget allocations by program area. The report must identify the
 1291 districts that are not in compliance with the reporting
 1292 requirements of this section. State funds shall be withheld from
 1293 a water management district that fails to comply with these
 1294 reporting requirements.

1295 Section 10. For the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years,
 1296 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the water management
 1297 districts are directed to budget and plan for their fiscal
 1298 management to conform to the provisions of this act.

1299 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.