

By Senator Dean

3-01463-09

20092120\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the protection of springs; creating  
3           the Florida Springs Stewardship Task Force; providing  
4           legislative findings and intent; providing  
5           definitions; providing for task force membership and  
6           duties; requiring a report to the Legislature;  
7           providing for assistance and cooperation from state  
8           agencies and local governments; providing for  
9           expiration of the task force; providing an effective  
10          date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14           Section 1. Florida Springs Stewardship Task Force.—

15           (1) INTENT.—The Legislature finds that:

16           (a) Florida's springs are valuable resources that provide  
17 recreational and tourism opportunities, significant financial  
18 benefit to local economies, and critical habitat for endangered  
19 or threatened plant and animal species.

20           (b) The flow and water quality of Florida's springs are  
21 direct reflections of the aquifer systems in Florida and  
22 consequently are indicators of the condition of a significant  
23 portion of the state's water resources.

24           (c) Cooperative efforts are best for identifying best-  
25 management practices for the protection, restoration, and  
26 preservation of the state's water resources, including springs.

27           (d) The state's residents want to be good stewards of the  
28 state's resources and through educational awareness programs  
29 will voluntarily implement best-management practices into their

3-01463-09

20092120\_\_

30 daily activities.

31 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this part, the term:

32 (a) "Seep" means a place where the water table aquifer  
33 intersects the land surface and flows onto the land.

34 (b) "Spring" means a point where groundwater is discharged  
35 onto the earth's surface, including under any surface water of  
36 the state, and excludes seeps.

37 (c) "Zone of influence" means the geographic area that  
38 contributes most directly to the water quantity and quality of a  
39 spring.

40 (3) TASK FORCE.—

41 (a) The Florida Springs Stewardship Task Force is created  
42 and shall consist of nine members as follows:

43 1. One representative from the Department of Environmental  
44 Protection, to be appointed by the Secretary of Environmental  
45 Protection.

46 2. One representative from the Department of Agriculture  
47 and Consumer Services, to be appointed by the Commissioner of  
48 Agriculture.

49 3. One representative from the Department of Community  
50 Affairs, to be appointed by the Secretary of Community Affairs.

51 4. One representative from the water management district  
52 that has the greatest number of first-magnitude springs within  
53 its jurisdiction, to be appointed by the executive director of  
54 that water management district.

55 5. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate,  
56 one of whom shall be a representative of the development  
57 community and one of whom shall be a representative of a local  
58 chamber of commerce.

3-01463-09

20092120

59       6. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
60 Representatives, one of whom shall be a locally elected county  
61 or municipal official and one of whom shall be a representative  
62 of the environmental community.

63       7. One member appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture  
64 who shall be a representative of the agricultural community.

65       (b) Task force members shall be appointed by August 1,  
66 2009. Members shall choose a chair and vice chair from the  
67 membership of the task force.

68       (c) The task force shall:

69       1. Collect and inventory all existing data the identifying  
70 zone of influence for each of the state's 33 known first-  
71 magnitude springs and identifying land uses in these areas.

72       2. Identify and compile a list of existing best-management  
73 practices for identified land uses and other water pollutant  
74 controls.

75       3. Identify all existing and reasonably expected funding  
76 sources available to implement best-management practices and  
77 other water pollutant controls that protect the state's first-  
78 magnitude springs and propose a priority list of projects for  
79 the funding.

80       4. Take public input and testimony regarding issues related  
81 to spring protection, restoration, and preservation.

82       5. Propose a program of increased emphasis on education and  
83 outreach which encourages the implementation of best-management  
84 practices for agricultural and nonagricultural land uses and  
85 other water pollutant controls, including specific provisions  
86 for cost-share assistance with the implementation of such  
87 practices as well as recognition of agricultural and

3-01463-09

20092120\_\_

88 nonagricultural landowners who participate in the program.

89 6. The task force shall submit a report summarizing the  
90 data collected, public input and testimony, and the findings and  
91 proposals of the task force to the President of the Senate and  
92 the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than  
93 January 31, 2010.

94 (d) All state agencies are directed, and all other agencies  
95 and local governments are requested, to render assistance to and  
96 cooperate with the task force.

97 (e) The task force shall expire on January 31, 2010.

98 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.