

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee

BILL: SB 2334

INTRODUCER: Senator Dean

SUBJECT: Water Management Lands Trust Fund

DATE: March 27, 2009 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Kiger	Kiger	EP	Favorable
2.			GA	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

The bill provides that the Northwest Florida and Suwannee River water management districts may use any excess funds provided for the development of alternative water supplies for their regional water supply planning efforts.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2009.

This bill substantially amends s. 373.1961, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Each water management district currently receives some portion of the funds deposited into the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund. The amount of these funds is subject to annual appropriation and has recently been declining due to declining documentary stamp tax revenues.

Of the funds deposited into the trust fund, 65 percent of them are directed to the water management districts for the implementation of alternative water supply efforts as provided for in s. 373.1961, F.S. Section 373.1961(3), F.S., provides for the distribution of the funds to the individual districts and what they may be used for.

Paragraph (c) of s. 373.1961(3), F.S., directs that these funds are to be combined with other state funds and used to assist in funding the project construction costs of alternative water supply projects. This paragraph also provides that if a district has not completed a regional water supply plan or the plan has identified that no need exists for alternative water supply projects, then the

district may utilize the funds for water resource development projects including springs protection.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends section 373.1961, F.S., to authorize the Northwest Florida and Suwannee River water management districts to utilize excess alternative water supply funds for the development of regional water supply plans in addition to those currently authorized.

The bill would take effect July 1, 2009.

Other Potential Implications:

As drafted the bill may prohibit the other three water management districts from utilizing excess alternative water supply funds for regional water supply planning, water resource development or springs protection. Current law allows these districts to expend the funds for the latter two.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Northwest Florida and Suwannee River water management districts would benefit from additional flexibility for use of the funds. The other three districts, if they had excess funds, could potentially see additional restrictions placed on their expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
