

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 General Government Appropriations Committee

BILL: CS/SB 2334

INTRODUCER: General Government Appropriations and Senator Dean

SUBJECT: Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund

DATE: April 15, 2009 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Kiger</u>	<u>Kiger</u>	<u>EP</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>DeLoach</u>	<u>DeLoach</u>	<u>GA</u>	Fav/CS
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant amendments were recommended |

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 provides an effective date of July 1, 2009.

This bill substantially amends section 373.1961, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

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

Of the funds deposited into the trust fund, 65 percent 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 authorized uses of the funds.

Section 373.1961(3)(c), 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 s. 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 provides an effective date of July 1, 2009.

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:

The Northwest Florida and Suwannee River Water Management Districts will benefit from additional flexibility for use of the funds.

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.)

CS by General Government Appropriations Committee on April 15, 2009:

The committee substitute directs funds to be deposited into the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund to the credit of the Northwest Florida Water Management District and Suwannee River Water Management District.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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