

By the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation;  
and Senator Siplin

592-04601-11

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to unclaimed deposits held by  
3           utilities; amending s. 717.108, F.S.; requiring that  
4           any unclaimed deposits held by a utility be deposited  
5           annually into the Ecosystem Management and Restoration  
6           Trust Fund in the Department of Environmental  
7           Protection to improve the water quality in Silver  
8           Springs and into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund  
9           in the Department of Community Affairs, or its  
10          successor agency, to supplement the Low-Income Home  
11          Energy Assistance Program; providing appropriations;  
12          providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16           Section 1. Section 717.108, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
17           read:

18           717.108 Deposits held by utilities.—

19           (1) Any deposit, including any interest thereon, made by a  
20           subscriber with a utility to secure payment or any sum paid in  
21           advance for utility services to be furnished, less any lawful  
22           charges, that remains unclaimed by the owner for more than 1  
23           year after termination of the services for which the deposit or  
24           advance payment was made is presumed unclaimed.

25           (2) The unclaimed deposits shall be distributed annually as  
26           follows:

27           (a) The sum of \$500,000 shall be transferred from the  
28           Department of Community Affairs, or the Department of Community  
29           Affairs' successor agency, to the Ecosystem Management and

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30 Restoration Trust Fund of the Department of Environmental  
31 Protection for the purpose of improving water quality in Silver  
32 Springs.

33 (b) The remaining balance shall be transferred to the  
34 Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of  
35 Community Affairs, or the Department of Community Affairs'  
36 successor agency, to be used to supplement the Low-Income Home  
37 Energy Assistance Program for the purpose of assisting low-  
38 income households in meeting the costs of home heating and  
39 cooling bills. These funds shall be administered through the  
40 same local provider agencies that presently administer the Low-  
41 Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

42 Section 2. Appropriations.—For the 2011-2012 fiscal year:

43 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection is  
44 appropriated \$500,000 from the Ecosystem Management and  
45 Restoration Trust Fund for the purpose of improving water  
46 quality in Silver Springs. These funds shall be directed to the  
47 implementation of remediation actions that have the effect of  
48 reducing nitrate loads to the spring. The department shall  
49 coordinate with Marion County in identifying and selecting which  
50 project has the greatest benefit based on estimated nitrate  
51 reductions and consistency with the long-term plans of Marion  
52 County.

53 (2) The Department of Community Affairs, or its successor  
54 agency, is appropriated \$3.5 million from the Grants and  
55 Donations Trust Fund, which shall be used by local Low-Income  
56 Home Energy Assistance Program provider agencies to meet the  
57 energy needs of eligible applicants.

58 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.