



331156

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/06/2012	.	
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The Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation  
(Dean) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

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

717.108 Deposits held by utilities.—

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



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13 advance payment was made is presumed unclaimed.

14 (2) The unclaimed utility deposits and funds presumed  
15 unclaimed shall be transferred to the Department of Economic  
16 Opportunity.

17 Section 2. (1) The sum of \$500,000 from the unclaimed  
18 utility deposits and funds presumed unclaimed pursuant to s.  
19 717.108, Florida Statutes, shall be transferred from the  
20 Department of Economic Opportunity to the Ecosystem Management  
21 and Restoration Trust Fund of the Department of Environmental  
22 Protection and shall be used for the purpose of improving water  
23 quality in Silver Springs. These funds shall be directed to the  
24 implementation of remediation actions that have the effect of  
25 reducing nitrate loads to the spring. The department shall  
26 coordinate with Marion County in identifying and selecting which  
27 project has the greatest benefit based on estimated nitrate  
28 reductions and consistency with the long-term plans of Marion  
29 County.

30 (2) The remaining balance of the unclaimed deposits and  
31 funds presumed unclaimed in the Department of Economic  
32 Opportunity shall be transferred to the Grants and Donations  
33 Trust Fund within the department and used to supplement the Low-  
34 Income Home Energy Assistance Program for the purpose of  
35 assisting low-income households in meeting the costs of home  
36 heating and cooling bills. These funds shall be administered  
37 through the same local provider agencies that presently  
38 administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

39 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

40  
41 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====



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42 And the title is amended as follows:

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44 Delete everything before the enacting clause

45 and insert:

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A bill to be entitled

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An act relating to unclaimed deposits held by

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utilities; amending s. 717.108, F.S.; requiring that

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any unclaimed deposits held by a utility be

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transferred to the Department of Economic Opportunity;

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requiring that a specified portion of unclaimed

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deposits be transferred to the Ecosystem Management

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and Restoration Trust Fund in the Department of

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Environmental Protection and used to improve the water

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quality in Silver Springs; requiring that the

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remaining balance of unclaimed deposits be transferred

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to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the

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Department of Economic Opportunity and used to assist

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low-income households in meeting the costs of home

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heating and cooling bills; providing an effective

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date.