

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to water storage and water quality
 3 improvements; creating s. 373.4591, F.S.; requiring a
 4 specified determination as a condition of an agreement
 5 for water storage and water quality improvements on
 6 private agricultural lands in the Lake Okeechobee
 7 watershed; providing a methodology for such
 8 determination; providing for regulation of such lands
 9 after expiration of the agreement; providing an
 10 effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Section 373.4591, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to read:

16 373.4591 Improvements on private agricultural lands in the
 17 Lake Okeechobee watershed.—The Legislature encourages public-
 18 private partnerships to accomplish water storage and water
 19 quality improvements on private agricultural lands in the Lake
 20 Okeechobee watershed. When agreements are entered into to
 21 establish such partnerships, a baseline condition determining
 22 the extent of wetlands and other surface waters on the property
 23 shall be established and documented in the agreement before
 24 improvements are constructed. The determination for the baseline
 25 condition shall be conducted using the methods set forth in the
 26 rules adopted pursuant to s. 373.421. The baseline condition
 27 documented in the agreement shall be considered the extent of
 28 wetlands and other surface waters on the property for the

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29 purpose of regulation under this chapter after the expiration of
30 the agreement.

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.