

By Senator Altman

24-00943-12

20121858

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.

11  
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  
29 purpose of regulation under this chapter after the expiration of

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30 the agreement.

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