

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

592-02642-12

20121858c1

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; providing a methodology  
7 for such determination; providing for regulation of  
8 such lands for the duration of the agreement and after  
9 its expiration; providing an effective date.

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

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

15 373.4591 Improvements on private agricultural lands.—The  
16 Legislature encourages public-private partnerships to accomplish  
17 water storage and water quality improvements on private  
18 agricultural lands. When an agreement is entered into between a  
19 water management district or the department and a private  
20 landowner to establish such a partnership, a baseline condition  
21 determining the extent of wetlands and other surface waters on  
22 the property shall be established and documented in the  
23 agreement before improvements are constructed. The determination  
24 for the baseline condition shall be conducted using the methods  
25 set forth in the rules adopted pursuant to s. 373.421. The  
26 baseline condition documented in the agreement shall be  
27 considered the extent of wetlands and other surface waters on  
28 the property for the purpose of regulation under this chapter  
29 for the duration of the agreement and after its expiration.

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