

HB 789

2013

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the Springs Revival Act; creating  
3 s. 373.198 F.S.; requiring water management districts  
4 to identify certain springs, develop certain plans,  
5 and submit certain reports; authorizing the districts  
6 to adopt rules and issue orders; providing an  
7 effective date.

8  
9 WHEREAS, Florida's springs are natural treasures that  
10 provide world-class recreation and ecotourism, and

11 WHEREAS, Florida's springs are integral to our water supply  
12 and essential to our quality of life, and

13 WHEREAS, according to the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs  
14 Institute, Florida's springs have been declining in magnitude  
15 for the past 50 years, and

16 WHEREAS, strong measures must be taken to ensure the  
17 survival of Florida's springs for future generations, NOW,  
18 THEREFORE,

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. Section 373.126, Florida Statutes, is created  
23 to read:

24 373.198 Springs Revival Act.—

25 (1) By October 1, 2013, each water management district,  
26 with technical support provided by the Florida Geological Survey  
27 or another appropriate state or federal agency, shall identify  
28 the first and second magnitude springs within the district that

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29 are in decline based upon historic average water quality and  
30 flow levels that are not identified in the department's rule for  
31 impaired water bodies.

32 (2) By July 1, 2014, each water management district shall  
33 develop a 5-year plan to restore historic average water quality  
34 and flow levels to the springs identified pursuant to subsection  
35 (1) and in the department's impaired water bodies rule. The plan  
36 may use or include existing plans and studies.

37 (3) Each water management district may adopt rules or  
38 issue orders as necessary to implement this section.

39 (4) Beginning January 1, 2014, and quarterly thereafter,  
40 each water management district shall submit a report on the  
41 progress of the restoration efforts required by this section to  
42 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
43 the House of Representatives.

44 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.