

By Senator Gibson

9-01200-15

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to water supply planning and  
3           oversight; creating s. 373.717, F.S.; providing  
4           legislative intent; creating the Florida Statewide  
5           Water Oversight and Planning Council within the  
6           Department of Environmental Protection to guide and  
7           assist water forecasting plans for the state;  
8           providing for the membership of the council; requiring  
9           the council to carry out certain tasks; requiring the  
10          council to submit 5-year, 10-year, and 20-year water  
11          forecasting plans by specified dates; providing an  
12          effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16           Section 1. Section 373.717, Florida Statutes, is created to  
17           read:

18           373.717 Florida Statewide Water Oversight and Planning  
19           Council.—

20           (1) INTENT.—The Legislature finds that an oversight council  
21           is necessary to ensure the sustainability and availability of  
22           sufficient water supplies for current and future uses in this  
23           state while protecting natural systems. The Legislature intends  
24           that the council shall advise in determining the best approach  
25           to prevent or minimize damage from floods, and protect and  
26           enhance the natural system values of floodplains; improve,  
27           protect, and maintain the quality of surface and groundwater;  
28           and preserve, protect, and restore water dependent natural  
29           systems.

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30       (2) CREATION.—The Florida Statewide Water Oversight and  
31 Planning Council is created as an advisory council pursuant to  
32 chapter 20 within the department to provide a statewide  
33 oversight perspective that will guide and assist the development  
34 of a 5-year, 10-year, and 20-year water forecasting plan for the  
35 state.

36       (3) MEMBERS.—The council shall consist of 15 members as  
37 follows:

38       (a) Two members appointed by the Governor.

39       (b) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
40 Representatives.

41       (c) One member appointed by the President of the Senate.

42       (d) One member from the Department of Agriculture appointed  
43 by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

44       (e) One member from the Department of Environmental  
45 Protection appointed by the Secretary of Environmental  
46 Protection.

47       (f) One member from the Sierra Club.

48       (g) One member from the Florida Homebuilders Association.

49       (h) One member from the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

50       (i) One member from the Associated Industries of Florida.

51       (j) One member from each of the five water management  
52 districts appointed by the executive director of each water  
53 management district, respectively.

54       (4) LONG-RANGE WATER FORECASTING PLANS.—

55       (a) The council shall carry out all of the following tasks  
56 in developing the long-range water forecasting plans that ensure  
57 the state has sufficient water to sustain the state's  
58 population, agricultural industry, and environmental resources:

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59       1. Identify and inventory existing sources of potable water  
60 and identify new sources of potable water.

61       2. Identify ways to promote water conservation education  
62 and practices and the reuse of reclaimed water and treated  
63 wastewater for nonpotable purposes, such as landscape irrigation  
64 and farming.

65       3. Make recommendations on projects for creating new  
66 potable water sources, preserving existing water sources,  
67 creating reservoirs and water storage, assisting with flood  
68 protection and floodplain management.

69       4. Review the impact of underground activity that may  
70 impact or pollute the aquifer, including drilling, fracking,  
71 chemical injection, mining, and stormwater injection.

72       5. Review the impact of activities that involve dredging.

73       6. Develop recommendations for protection of the natural  
74 water systems of the state, including lakes, springs, wetlands,  
75 marshes, wildlife habitats, recreational sites, and streams to  
76 be provided to the Department of Environmental Protection.

77       7. Develop recommendations on the management of beaches and  
78 coastal systems, Everglades restoration, wetland and submerged  
79 land protection, and beach renourishment.

80       (b) The 5-year water forecasting plan must be submitted to  
81 the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2017, and the 10-  
82 year and 20-year water forecasting plans must be submitted by  
83 January 1, 2018.

84       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.