

HB 1159

2016

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to water oversight and planning;
3 establishing the Water Oversight and Planning Board to
4 address water issues in the state; providing
5 membership and terms; providing meeting requirements;
6 requiring the Department of Environmental Protection
7 to provide staff to the board; providing reimbursement
8 for per diem and travel expenses; providing meeting
9 requirements; providing board duties; requiring the
10 board to submit its long-range plans to the
11 department, each water management district, the
12 Governor, and the Legislature; requiring the board to
13 provide its findings and recommendations to the
14 Governor and the Legislature; providing an effective
15 date.

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

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19 Section 1. (1) The Water Oversight and Planning Board is
20 established as the statewide oversight board for issues
21 affecting and impacting water supply and water supply planning,
22 water quality restoration and protection, flood protection and
23 flood plain management, and natural systems protection and
24 restoration.

25 (2) The Water Oversight and Planning Board shall consist
26 of 15 members as follows:

- 27 (a) Two members appointed by the Governor.
- 28 (b) One representative from the Department of Agriculture
- 29 and Consumer Services.
- 30 (c) One representative from the Department of
- 31 Environmental Protection.
- 32 (d) One representative from Sierra Club Florida.
- 33 (e) One representative from the Florida Home Builders
- 34 Association.
- 35 (f) One representative from the Florida Chamber of
- 36 Commerce.
- 37 (g) One representative from Associated Industries of
- 38 Florida.
- 39 (h) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
- 40 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 41 (i) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of
- 42 the Senate.
- 43 (j) One representative from each of the five water
- 44 management districts.
- 45 (3) (a) The board shall meet at least quarterly, and each
- 46 meeting within any one year shall be held in a different
- 47 location in the state. Additional meetings may be held upon the
- 48 call of the chair. A majority of the members of the board
- 49 constitutes a quorum. Board meetings may be conducted by
- 50 conference call, teleconferencing, or similar technology.
- 51 (b) Members of the board shall serve for a term of 4
- 52 years. A vacancy occurring during a member's term shall be

53 filled in the same manner as the initial appointment. The board
54 shall be chaired by a member chosen by majority vote.

55 (c) The Department of Environmental Protection shall
56 provide the board with staff necessary to assist the board in
57 the performance of its duties.

58 (d) Members of the board shall serve without compensation
59 but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel
60 expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.
61 Reimbursements made pursuant to this paragraph may be paid from
62 appropriations provided to the Department of Environmental
63 Protection by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.

64 (4) Recognizing that water is an essential public resource
65 that benefits the entire state and must be carefully managed to
66 ensure its sustainability, the Water Oversight and Planning
67 Board shall use the best science available to:

68 (a) Review and monitor district regional water supply
69 plans developed under s. 373.709, Florida Statutes.

70 (b) Use data provided by the water management districts
71 and others with peer-reviewed scientific data to:

72 1. Develop 5-year, 10-year, and 20-year forecasting plans
73 to ensure the state has the appropriate quantities and quality
74 of water at the appropriate times of the year for people,
75 agriculture, and the protection and restoration of natural
76 systems.

77 2. Identify and inventory existing sources of potable
78 water.

79 3. Identify new sources of water for potable uses,
80 agricultural uses, industrial uses, and protection and
81 restoration of natural systems.

82 4. Identify the largest consumers of water by water
83 management district and overall statewide.

84 (c) Consolidate and compile existing water data supplied
85 by the water management districts and others with peer-reviewed
86 scientific data into a standardized format for creation of an
87 electronic water data center. The water data center shall be
88 housed within the Florida Geological Survey and be available to
89 the public.

90 (d) Building upon the reports previously submitted by the
91 Department of Environmental Protection, investigate techniques,
92 financial incentives, and regulatory mechanisms to promote or
93 require water conservation.

94 (e) Working with the Department of Education, investigate
95 ways to promote water conservation education and practices.

96 (f) Promote reuse of reclaimed water and treated
97 wastewater for nonpotable purposes, such as landscape irrigation
98 and farming, as appropriate.

99 (g) Review recommendations contained in the regional water
100 supply plans developed under s. 373.709, Florida Statutes.

101 (h) Assess mechanisms to ensure water management districts
102 expedite the protection and restoration of natural systems,
103 including by expanded use of reservations of water under s.
104 373.223(4), Florida Statutes.

105 (i) Investigate mechanisms to incentivize the construction
106 of technologies such as desalination and reuse to produce new
107 sources of potable water.

108 (j) Review the impact of underground activity, including
109 drilling, hydraulic fracturing, chemical injection, mining, and
110 stormwater injection, that may impact or pollute the aquifer,
111 surface waters, or natural systems.

112 (k) Randomly sample dredging projects from permits issued
113 by the water management districts to assess the impacts of
114 dredging activities on natural systems.

115 (l) With input from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
116 Commission, develop recommendations to protect natural systems,
117 including lakes, springs, wetlands, marshes, wildlife habitats,
118 recreational sites, and streams.

119 (m) Make recommendations for improved management of
120 beaches and coastal systems, Everglades restoration, wetland and
121 submerged land protection, and techniques for beach
122 renourishment.

123 (5) By September 1 annually, the board shall submit its
124 long-range plans to the Department of Environmental Protection,
125 each of the water management districts, the Governor, the
126 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
127 Representatives.

128 (6) Every other year, beginning on September 1, 2017, the
129 board shall submit its findings and recommendations to the
130 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the

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131 | House of Representatives.

132 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.