

By Senator Albritton

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to water resources; amending s.  
3       403.928, F.S.; declaring legislative intent; revising  
4       requirements for the Office of Economic and  
5       Demographic Research's annual assessment of this  
6       state's water resources and conservation lands;  
7       requiring the office to consult with the Department of  
8       Environmental Protection; defining the term "agency";  
9       requiring the assessment to be submitted to the  
10      Legislature by a specified date; making technical  
11      changes; providing an effective date.

12  
13       WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that water constitutes a  
14      public resource that benefits the entire state, and

15       WHEREAS, water is an essential element to Florida's current  
16      and future growth, sustainability, and environmental health, and

17       WHEREAS, a water and lands assessment that is based on  
18      needs, and not simply expenditures, is vital to successfully  
19      plan for Florida's current and future population growth and  
20      infrastructure needs, NOW, THEREFORE,

21  
22      Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23  
24       Section 1. Section 403.928, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
25      read:

26       403.928 Assessment of water resources and conservation  
27      lands.—The Office of Economic and Demographic Research, in  
28      consultation with the department, shall conduct an annual  
29      assessment of Florida's water resources and conservation lands.

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30       (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature intends that the  
31 Office of Economic and Demographic Research interpret this  
32 section, to the maximum extent practicable, in a manner that  
33 provides the Legislature with the most comprehensive annual  
34 assessment of this state's water infrastructure funding needs,  
35 including, but not limited to, residential, commercial,  
36 environmental, agricultural, and industrial. It is further the  
37 intent of the Legislature that the office coordinate, to the  
38 greatest extent possible, with the Department of Environmental  
39 Protection to produce the annual assessment.

40       (2) ~~(1)~~ WATER RESOURCES.—The assessment must include:

41       (a) A quantitative, needs-based evaluation of all of the  
42 following:

43       1. Water supply infrastructure, including, but not limited  
44 to, water supply development projects, water resource  
45 development projects, and water conservation.

46       2. Water quality protection and restoration, including, but  
47 not limited to, septic system conversion, basin management  
48 action plans under s. 403.067(7)(a), and surface water  
49 improvement and management plans under s. 373.453.

50       3. Wastewater infrastructure, including septic systems.

51       4. Stormwater infrastructure.

52       5. Flood control infrastructure.

53       6. Environmental restoration.

54       (b) ~~(a)~~ An evaluation of ~~Historical and~~ current expenditures  
55 and ~~projections of future expenditures~~ by federal, state,  
56 regional, and local governments and public and private utilities  
57 which are ~~based upon historical trends and ongoing projects or~~  
58 ~~initiatives~~ associated with the categories listed in paragraph

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59 (a).÷

60 ~~1. Water supply and demand; and~~

61 ~~2. Water quality protection and restoration.~~

62 (c)~~(b)~~ An analysis and estimates of future expenditures by  
63 federal, state, regional, and local governments and public and  
64 private utilities necessary to comply with federal and state  
65 laws and regulations governing paragraphs (a) and (b)  
66 ~~subparagraphs (a)1. and 2.~~ The analysis and estimates must  
67 address future needs ~~expenditures~~ by federal, state, regional,  
68 and local governments and all public and private utilities  
69 necessary to achieve the requirements in s. 7, Art. II of the  
70 State Constitution, and the Legislature's intent that sufficient  
71 water be available for all existing and future reasonable-  
72 beneficial uses and the natural systems, and that adverse  
73 effects of competition for water supplies be avoided. The  
74 assessment must include a compilation of projected water supply  
75 and demand data developed by each water management district  
76 pursuant to ss. 373.036 and 373.709, with notations regarding  
77 any significant differences between the methods used by the  
78 districts to calculate the data.

79 (d)~~(e)~~ Forecasts of federal, state, regional, and local  
80 government revenues dedicated in current law for the purposes  
81 specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) ~~subparagraphs (a)1. and 2.~~  
82 or that have been historically allocated for these purposes, as  
83 well as public and private utility revenues.

84 (e)~~(d)~~ An identification of gaps between projected revenues  
85 and projected and estimated needs ~~expenditures~~.

86 (f) A comprehensive list of funding options to fulfill any  
87 funding gaps identified in paragraph (e). In creating the list,

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88 the Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall evaluate,  
89 at a minimum, existing revenue sources, potential additional  
90 revenue sources, and funding mechanisms used by other states for  
91 water infrastructure and environmental restoration.

92 (3)~~(2)~~ CONSERVATION LANDS.—The assessment must include all  
93 of the following:

94 (a) Historical and current expenditures and projections of  
95 future expenditures by federal, state, regional, and local  
96 governments based upon historical trends and ongoing projects or  
97 initiatives associated with real property interests eligible for  
98 funding under s. 259.105.

99 (b) An analysis and estimates of future expenditures by  
100 federal, state, regional, and local governments necessary to  
101 purchase lands identified in plans set forth by state agencies  
102 or water management districts.

103 (c) An analysis of the ad valorem tax impacts, by county,  
104 resulting from public ownership of conservation lands.

105 (d) Forecasts of federal, state, regional, and local  
106 government revenues dedicated in current law to maintain  
107 conservation lands and the gap between projected expenditures  
108 and revenues.

109 (e) The total percentage of Florida real property that is  
110 publicly owned for conservation purposes.

111 (f) A comparison of the cost of acquiring and maintaining  
112 conservation lands under fee simple or less than fee simple  
113 ownership.

114 (4)~~(3)~~ SCOPE.—The assessment must ~~shall~~ include:

115 (a) Analyses on a statewide, regional, or geographic basis,  
116 as appropriate, and must ~~shall~~ identify analytical challenges in

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117 assessing information across the different regions of this ~~the~~  
118 state.

119 (b)(4) An identification of ~~The assessment must identify~~  
120 any overlap in the expenditures or needs for water resources and  
121 conservation lands.

122 (5) AGENCY ASSISTANCE.—

123 (a) Agencies ~~The water management districts, the Department~~  
124 ~~of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture and~~  
125 ~~Consumer Services, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation~~  
126 ~~Commission, counties, municipalities, and special districts~~  
127 shall provide assistance to the Office of Economic and  
128 Demographic Research related to their respective areas of  
129 expertise.

130 (b)(6) An agency must provide the Office of Economic and  
131 Demographic Research with ~~must be given access to~~ any data held  
132 by the an agency which ~~as defined in s. 112.312~~ if the office of  
133 ~~Economic and Demographic Research~~ considers the data necessary  
134 to complete the assessment, including any confidential data.

135 (c) As used in this subsection, the term "agency" has the  
136 same meaning as in s. 112.312.

137 (6)(7) SUBMISSION.—~~The assessment~~ must ~~shall~~ be submitted  
138 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
139 Representatives by January 1, 2020 ~~2017~~, and by January 1 of  
140 each year thereafter.

141 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.