

**By** the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; and  
Senator Brodeur

592-02336-21

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to a study of the Little Wekiva River;  
3       requiring the Department of Environmental Protection,  
4       in consultation with the St. Johns River Water  
5       Management District, Seminole County, the Fish and  
6       Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Department  
7       of Transportation, to conduct a study and issue a  
8       report on sediment accumulation and water quality in  
9       the Little Wekiva River by a specified date; providing  
10      requirements for the report; authorizing local and  
11      state entities or their contractors to conduct  
12      restoration efforts during the study period; requiring  
13      the department and the water management district to  
14      review certain permits along the Little Wekiva River;  
15      requiring certain enforcement actions to be taken  
16      against noncompliant permittees; providing an  
17      effective date.

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

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21       Section 1. The Department of Environmental Protection, in  
22 consultation with the St. Johns River Water Management District,  
23 Seminole County, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission,  
24 and the Department of Transportation, shall conduct a study and  
25 issue a report by December 31, 2021, to identify the source of  
26 sediment accumulation in the Little Wekiva River and detail  
27 improvements to the water quality and ecology of the area which  
28 might be achieved by efforts to remove accumulated sediments by  
29 appropriate means, restore the natural river channel, remove

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30 invasive plants, and implement protective measures. The report  
31 must include an estimated cost for each improvement and  
32 potential funding sources. Local or state agencies or their  
33 contractors may conduct restoration efforts during the study  
34 period. The department and the water management district shall  
35 immediately review any permits north of S.R. 436 where the  
36 Little Wekiva River is identified as the "receiving waters" to  
37 assess whether any permittee is in violation of any permit  
38 conditions, take appropriate action to resolve any compliance  
39 issues, and remediate any impacts related to sedimentation in  
40 the Little Wekiva River and its adjacent wetland habitat. If a  
41 permittee or their contractors are found to be in violation of  
42 any permit condition associated with a project that has had an  
43 accumulation of sediments or has been found to have caused  
44 ecological harm to the Little Wekiva River, the permitting  
45 agencies shall levy all fines authorized by law commensurate  
46 with restoration costs.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.