

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to water management districts;  
3           amending s. 112.3261, F.S.; defining the term  
4           "expenditure"; requiring the Commission on Ethics to  
5           investigate a lobbyist or principal who has made a  
6           prohibited expenditure and to provide the Governor  
7           with a report of its findings and recommendations  
8           regarding such investigation; prohibiting certain  
9           persons from making or accepting expenditures;  
10          amending s. 373.079, F.S.; requiring a quorum for the  
11          conduct of official business by the governing board of  
12          a water management district; providing requirements  
13          for a quorum; requiring an affirmative vote of a  
14          majority of the members of the governing board before  
15          any action may be taken by the board; amending s.  
16          373.470, F.S.; requiring the South Florida Water  
17          Management District, in cooperation with the  
18          Department of Environmental Protection, to provide a  
19          detailed report that includes the total estimated  
20          remaining cost of implementation of the Everglades  
21          restoration comprehensive plan and the status of all  
22          performance indicators; requiring the subdivision of  
23          the project components into specified categories based  
24          on the project's status; providing legislative  
25          findings; requiring recommendations for updates to the

26 | integrated delivery schedule to identify certain  
27 | funding sources; amending s. 373.501, F.S.;  
28 | prohibiting a water management district from using  
29 | state funds for a specified purpose; amending s.  
30 | 373.503, F.S.; authorizing the districts to levy ad  
31 | valorem taxes on property by resolution adopted by a  
32 | majority vote of the governing board; authorizing the  
33 | districts to levy certain ad valorem taxes on  
34 | specified property; defining the term "capital  
35 | improvement projects"; requiring a governing board  
36 | levying ad valorem taxes for certain projects to adopt  
37 | a resolution approved by a majority vote of the voting  
38 | electors in the district or basin; providing  
39 | requirements for such resolution; prohibiting a  
40 | governing board from levying millage beyond a certain  
41 | date; providing requirements for such millage;  
42 | requiring that such resolution take effect on a  
43 | specified date; providing construction for such  
44 | referenda; providing requirements for the maximum  
45 | total millage rate for all purposes; providing that  
46 | the apportionment in the South Florida Water  
47 | Management District excludes certain millage;  
48 | reenacting and amending s. 373.535, F.S.; requiring  
49 | that the preliminary budget for each water management  
50 | district include a section that contains the

51 district's capital improvement plan for the current  
52 fiscal year and the next fiscal year; requiring that  
53 the section contain specified information; requiring  
54 the South Florida Water Management District to include  
55 a section in its preliminary budget for all projects  
56 within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan;  
57 requiring that the section contain specified  
58 information; providing that the South Florida Water  
59 Management District may only incorporate state  
60 revenues up to a specified amount when estimating  
61 expenditures for the next fiscal year; providing an  
62 exception; amending s. 373.536, F.S.; authorizing the  
63 Legislative Budget Commission to reject certain  
64 district budget proposals; providing an exception;  
65 requiring the South Florida Water Management District  
66 to include in its budget document certain sections  
67 that incorporate the actual amount of state revenues  
68 appropriated for the fiscal year; requiring a water  
69 management district's tentative budget for its  
70 proposed operations and funding requirements to  
71 include the district's capital improvement plan for  
72 the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year;  
73 amending s. 373.6075, F.S.; requiring a water  
74 management district to give preference to certain  
75 bids, proposals, or replies for the design,

76 engineering, or construction, or any combination  
 77 thereof, of capital improvement projects in excess of  
 78 a specified amount; providing requirements for the  
 79 competitive selection process and procurement  
 80 procedures; reenacting s. 373.0697, F.S., relating to  
 81 basin taxes, to incorporate the amendment made to s.  
 82 373.503, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s.  
 83 373.026(8)(d), F.S., relating to general powers and  
 84 duties of the Department of Environmental Protection,  
 85 to incorporate the amendment made to s. 373.536, F.S.,  
 86 in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

87

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

89

90 **Section 1. Present paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of**  
 91 **subsection (1) of section 112.3261, Florida Statutes, are**  
 92 **redesignated as paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), respectively, a**  
 93 **new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, subsection (9) is**  
 94 **added to that section, and subsection (7) of that section is**  
 95 **amended, to read:**

96 112.3261 Lobbying before water management districts;  
 97 registration and reporting.—

98 (1) As used in this section, the term:

99 (b) "Expenditure" has the same meaning as in s.

100 112.3215(1).

101 (7) Upon receipt of a sworn complaint alleging that a  
 102 lobbyist or principal has failed to register with a district,  
 103 has made a prohibited expenditure, or has knowingly submitted  
 104 false information in a report or registration required under  
 105 this section, the commission shall investigate a lobbyist or  
 106 principal pursuant to the procedures established under s.  
 107 112.324. The commission shall provide the Governor with a report  
 108 of its findings and recommendations in any investigation  
 109 conducted pursuant to this subsection. The Governor is  
 110 authorized to enforce the commission's findings and  
 111 recommendations.

112 (9) Notwithstanding s. 112.3148, s. 112.3149, or any other  
 113 law, a lobbyist or principal may not make, directly or  
 114 indirectly, and a district governing board member, executive  
 115 director, or any district employee who qualifies as a local  
 116 officer as defined in s. 112.3145(1) may not knowingly accept,  
 117 directly or indirectly, any expenditure.

118 **Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 373.079, Florida**  
 119 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

120 373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office;  
 121 staff.—

122 (7) The governing board shall meet at least once a month  
 123 and upon call of the chair. A quorum is necessary for the  
 124 governing board to conduct official business. A majority of the  
 125 members of the governing board, which includes both appointed

126 members and vacancies, constitutes a quorum. A board member's  
 127 appearance at a board meeting, whether such appearance is in  
 128 person or through the use of communications media technology,  
 129 must be counted for the determination of a quorum. Except where  
 130 otherwise provided by law, action may be taken by the governing  
 131 board only upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
 132 of the governing board. The governing board, a basin board, a  
 133 committee, or an advisory board may conduct meetings by means of  
 134 communications media technology in accordance with rules adopted  
 135 pursuant to s. 120.54(5)(b) ~~s. 120.54~~.

136 **Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section**  
 137 **373.470, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is**  
 138 **added to that section, to read:**

139 373.470 Everglades restoration.—

140 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—To provide enhanced oversight of and  
 141 accountability for the financial commitments established under  
 142 this section and the progress made in the implementation of the  
 143 comprehensive plan, the following information must be prepared  
 144 annually as part of the consolidated annual report required by  
 145 s. 373.036(7):

146 (c) The district, in cooperation with the department,  
 147 shall provide a detailed report on progress made in the  
 148 implementation of the comprehensive plan, including the total  
 149 estimated remaining cost of implementation of the comprehensive  
 150 plan. The report must also include the status of and applicable

151 performance indicators for all project components. The project  
152 components must be subdivided into the following categories  
153 based on the project's status:

154 1. Planning and design phase.

155 2. Construction phase, for which the performance  
156 indicators must include, but are not limited to, whether the  
157 project is on time and on budget based on a schedule performance  
158 index.

159 3. Operational phase, for which the performance indicators  
160 must include, but are not limited to, whether the project is  
161 operating in accordance with the draft operating manual included  
162 in the project implementation report, and an explanation of any  
163 significant modification to the final project operating manual.

164 4. Pending projects phase, which includes project  
165 components that have not yet entered the planning or design  
166 phase ~~initiated after the effective date of this act or the date~~  
167 ~~of the last report prepared under this subsection, whichever is~~  
168 ~~later.~~

169  
170 The information required in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) shall  
171 be provided as part of the consolidated annual report required  
172 by s. 373.036(7). Each annual report is due by March 1.

173 (8) INTEGRATED DELIVERY SCHEDULE.—The Legislature  
174 recognizes the value of the integrated delivery schedule as a  
175 forward-looking snapshot of upcoming planning, design, and

176 construction schedules for the comprehensive plan and as a tool  
177 that provides information to decisionmakers and facilitates the  
178 achievement of the goals and purposes of the comprehensive plan  
179 at the earliest possible time to the extent practical given  
180 funding, engineering, and other contractual constraints. The  
181 Legislature further recognizes that the integrated delivery  
182 schedule acts as a planning document and does not represent a  
183 budgetary or financial commitment on behalf of any of the  
184 members of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.  
185 Therefore, when making recommendations for any update to the  
186 integrated delivery schedule, state and local members of the  
187 task force must identify project funding sources to reflect  
188 whether the project will be funded with recurring state funds  
189 provided pursuant to s. 375.041(3)(b)1., 4., and 5. or with  
190 nonrecurring state funds.

191 **Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 373.501,**  
192 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

193 373.501 Appropriation of funds to water management  
194 districts.—

195 (3) A water management district may not use state funds as  
196 a local match for any state grant program unless such funds have  
197 been specifically appropriated to the district for such purpose.

198 **Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 373.503, Florida**  
199 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

200 373.503 Manner of taxation.—



201           (3) (a)1. The districts may, by resolution adopted by a  
202 majority vote of the governing board, levy ad valorem taxes on  
203 property within the district solely for the purposes of this  
204 chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, as amended,  
205 and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as amended. If appropriate,  
206 taxes levied by each governing board may be separated by the  
207 governing board into a millage necessary for the purposes of the  
208 district and a millage necessary for financing basin functions  
209 specified in s. 373.0695.

210           2.a. The districts may, by referendum, levy separate ad  
211 valorem taxes on property within the district or basin for the  
212 purposes of the construction of capital improvement projects.  
213 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "capital improvement  
214 projects" means projects related to water supply, including  
215 alternative water supply and water resource development projects  
216 identified in the district's regional water supply plans, water  
217 quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural  
218 systems.

219           b. A governing board exercising the option to levy  
220 separate ad valorem taxes for the purposes of the construction  
221 of capital improvement projects pursuant to this subparagraph  
222 shall adopt a resolution to be approved by a majority vote of  
223 the electors in the district or basin voting in a referendum  
224 held at a general election as defined in s. 97.021. The  
225 resolution must include the millage to be levied, a description

226 of the capital improvement projects, such projects' expected  
227 dates of completion, and the date when the millage levied under  
228 this subparagraph shall expire. No millage may be levied beyond  
229 the date of a project's expected date of completion. Such  
230 millage levied may be up to an amount that, when combined with  
231 millage levied under subparagraph 1., does not exceed the  
232 maximum total millage rate under paragraph (b). The resolution  
233 must take effect on the January 1 immediately succeeding  
234 approval. The referendum must be conducted consistent with the  
235 laws governing bond referenda as provided in ss. 100.201-  
236 100.351.

237 (b)(a) Notwithstanding any other general or special law,  
238 and subject to subsection (4), the maximum total millage rate  
239 for all ~~district and basin~~ purposes authorized under this  
240 section shall be:

- 241 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 242 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 243 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 244 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.
- 245 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.

246 (c)(b) The apportionment in the South Florida Water  
247 Management District shall be a maximum of 40 percent for  
248 district purposes and a maximum of 60 percent for basin  
249 purposes, respectively. This calculation excludes millage raised  
250 pursuant to subparagraph (a)2.

251        (d)~~(e)~~ Within the Southwest Florida Water Management  
252 District, the maximum millage assessed for district purposes may  
253 not exceed 50 percent of the total authorized millage if there  
254 are one or more basins in the district, and the maximum millage  
255 assessed for basin purposes may not exceed 50 percent of the  
256 total authorized millage.

257        **Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 373.535, Florida**  
258 **Statutes, is amended, and subsections (2) and (3) of that**  
259 **section are reenacted, to read:**

260        373.535 Preliminary district budgets.—

261        (1) BUDGET DEVELOPMENT.—

262        (a) By January 15 of each year, each water management  
263 district shall submit a preliminary budget for the next fiscal  
264 year for legislative review to the President of the Senate, the  
265 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of each  
266 legislative committee and subcommittee having substantive or  
267 fiscal jurisdiction over water management districts, as  
268 determined by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the  
269 House of Representatives, as applicable, in the form and manner  
270 prescribed in s. 373.536(5)(e).

271        (b) Each preliminary budget must also include:

272        1. A section that clearly identifies and provides  
273 justification for each proposed expenditure listed in s.  
274 373.536(5)(e)4.e. and f. and identifies the source of funds for  
275 each proposed expenditure.

276 2. A section identifying the justification for proposed  
277 expenditures by core mission area of responsibility and the  
278 source of funds needed for activities related to water supply,  
279 including alternative water supply and water resource  
280 development projects identified in the district's regional water  
281 supply plans, water quality, flood protection and floodplain  
282 management, and natural systems.

283 3. A section that includes the district's capital  
284 improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal  
285 year, which will be incorporated as part of the district's 5-  
286 year capital improvement plan. The following information must be  
287 included for each project contained in the capital improvement  
288 plan:

289 a. Estimated beginning and ending dates.

290 b. Current status, such as planning, construction, or  
291 operations.

292 c. Funding distribution, broken down by federal, state,  
293 local, or other.

294 d. Total cost of the project.

295 e. Whether the project is funded from reserves.

296 f. Total expenditures made to date, by fiscal year.

297 g. Current year estimated expenditures.

298 h. Annual budget, including future budget requests, until  
299 project completion, by funding source.

300 i. Project description.

301            j. State program code, such as operations and maintenance  
 302 or ecosystems restoration.

303            ~~4.3.~~ A section reviewing the adopted and proposed budget  
 304 allocations by program area and the performance metrics for the  
 305 prior year.

306            ~~5.4.~~ An analysis of each preliminary budget to determine  
 307 the adequacy of fiscal resources available to the district and  
 308 the adequacy of proposed district expenditures related to the  
 309 core mission areas of responsibility for water supply, including  
 310 alternative water supply and water resource development projects  
 311 identified in the district's regional water supply plans, water  
 312 quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural  
 313 systems. The analysis must be based on the particular needs  
 314 within each district for core mission areas of responsibility.  
 315 The water supply analysis must specifically include a  
 316 determination of the adequacy of each district's fiscal  
 317 resources provided in the district's preliminary budget to  
 318 achieve appropriate progress toward meeting the districtwide 20-  
 319 year projected water supply demands, including funding for  
 320 alternative water supply development and conservation projects.

321            ~~(c) (b)~~ If applicable, the preliminary budget for each  
 322 district must specify that the district's first obligation for  
 323 payment is the debt service on bonds and certificates of  
 324 participation.

325            (d) In addition to the information that must be included

326 for projects carried out pursuant to the capital improvement  
327 plan in subparagraph (b)3., the South Florida Water Management  
328 District must include a separate section in its preliminary  
329 budget for all projects within the Comprehensive Everglades  
330 Restoration Plan. The information for the separate section must  
331 be provided on a project-by-project basis and include the source  
332 of funds. For each project, all of the following information  
333 must be included:

- 334 1. The project title and a brief description.  
335 2. The total estimated cost of the project, broken down by  
336 federal and nonfederal sponsor obligations. The local sponsor  
337 obligations must be further broken down by state and district  
338 obligations.  
339 3. The timeline for the project.  
340 4. The total expenditures to date and estimated remaining  
341 expenditures needed for project completion.  
342 5. The estimate of expenditures for the current year.  
343 6. The estimate of expenditures for the next fiscal year.  
344 (e) For expenditures funded by state appropriations, the  
345 South Florida Water Management District must indicate which  
346 fiscal year the appropriation is from. In estimating  
347 expenditures for the next fiscal year, the district may only  
348 incorporate state revenues in an amount up to the amount of  
349 funds specifically provided in s. 375.041(3)(b)1., 4., and 5.,  
350 unless the district commits district revenues on a dollar-for-

351 dollar basis for any amount over such amount specifically  
352 provided.

353 (2) LEGISLATIVE REVIEW.—

354 (a) The Legislature may annually review the preliminary  
355 budget for each district, including, but not limited to, those  
356 items listed in s. 373.536(5)(e)4.d.-f., specific to regulation,  
357 outreach, management, and administration program areas.

358 (b) On or before March 1 of each year, the President of  
359 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may  
360 submit comments regarding the preliminary budget to the  
361 districts, and provide a copy of the comments to the Executive  
362 Office of the Governor. Each district shall respond to the  
363 comments in writing on or before March 15 of each year to the  
364 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
365 Representatives, and the Executive Office of the Governor.

366 (c) If, following such review, the Legislature does not  
367 take any action pursuant to s. 373.503 on or before July 1 of  
368 each year, a water management district may proceed with budget  
369 development as provided in subsection (3) and s. 373.536.

370 (3) FUNDING AUTHORITY GRANTED.—Each district shall use the  
371 preliminary budget as submitted pursuant to subsection (1), and  
372 as may be amended by the district in response to review by the  
373 Legislature pursuant to this section and s. 373.503, as the  
374 basis for developing the tentative budget for the next fiscal  
375 year as provided in s. 373.536(5).

376           **Section 7. Paragraphs (c) and (e) of subsection (5) of**  
 377 **section 373.536, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

378           373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.—

379           (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND  
 380 APPROVAL.—

381           (c) The Legislative Budget Commission may reject any of  
 382 the following district budget proposals unless specifically  
 383 appropriated by the Legislature:

384           1. A single purchase of land in excess of \$10 million,  
 385 except for land exchanges.

386           2. Any cumulative purchase of land during a single fiscal  
 387 year in excess of \$50 million.

388           3. Any issuance of debt on or after July 1, 2012.

389           4. Any program expenditure ~~expenditures~~ as described in  
 390 sub-subparagraphs (e)4.e. and f. in excess of 15 percent of a  
 391 district's total annual budget.

392           5. Any individual variance ~~variances~~ in a district's  
 393 tentative budget which is in excess of 25 percent from a  
 394 district's preliminary budget.

395           6. Any individual portion of a district's tentative budget  
 396 funded with state appropriations.

397           7. Any individual project in the district's 5-year capital  
 398 improvement plan.

399  
 400 Written disapproval of any provision in the tentative budget



401 must be received by the district at least 5 business days before  
402 the final district budget adoption hearing conducted under s.  
403 200.065(2)(d). If written disapproval is not received at least 5  
404 business days before the final budget adoption hearing, the  
405 governing board may proceed with final adoption. Any provision  
406 rejected by the Executive Office of the Governor or the  
407 Legislative Budget Commission may not be included in a  
408 district's final budget and may not be acted upon through any  
409 other means without the prior approval of the entity rejecting  
410 the provision.

411 (e) The tentative budget must be based on the preliminary  
412 budget as submitted to the Legislature, and as may be amended by  
413 the district in response to review by the Legislature pursuant  
414 to ss. 373.503 and 373.535, as the basis for developing the  
415 tentative budget for the next fiscal year as provided in this  
416 subsection, and must set forth the proposed expenditures of the  
417 district, to which may be added an amount to be held as reserve.  
418 The tentative budget must include, but is not limited to, the  
419 following information for the preceding fiscal year and the  
420 current fiscal year, and the proposed amounts for the upcoming  
421 fiscal year, in a standard format prescribed by the Executive  
422 Office of the Governor, in consultation with the Legislature:

423 1. The estimated amount of funds remaining at the  
424 beginning of the fiscal year which have been obligated for the  
425 payment of outstanding commitments not yet completed.

426           2. The estimated amount of unobligated funds or net cash  
 427 balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year; an  
 428 accounting of the source, balance, and projected future use of  
 429 the unobligated funds; and the estimated amount of funds to be  
 430 raised by district taxes or received from other sources to meet  
 431 the requirements of the district.

432           3. The millage rates and the percentage increase above the  
 433 rolled-back rate, together with a summary of the reasons the  
 434 increase is required, and the percentage increase in taxable  
 435 value resulting from new construction within the district.

436           4. The salaries and benefits, expenses, operating capital  
 437 outlay, number of authorized positions, and other personal  
 438 services for the following program areas of the district:

- 439           a. Water resource planning and monitoring;
- 440           b. Land acquisition, restoration, and public works;
- 441           c. Operation and maintenance of works and lands;
- 442           d. Regulation;
- 443           e. Outreach for which the information provided must  
 444 contain a full description and accounting of expenditures for  
 445 water resources education; public information and public  
 446 relations, including public service announcements and  
 447 advertising in any media; and lobbying activities related to  
 448 local, regional, state and federal governmental affairs, whether  
 449 incurred by district staff or through contractual services; and  
 450           f. Management and administration.

451  
 452 In addition to the program areas reported by all water  
 453 management districts, the South Florida Water Management  
 454 District shall include in its budget document separate sections  
 455 on all costs associated with the Everglades Construction Project  
 456 and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, incorporating  
 457 the amount of state revenues appropriated for the fiscal year.

458 5. The total estimated amount in the district budget for  
 459 each area of responsibility listed in subparagraph 4. and for  
 460 water resource, water supply, and alternative water supply  
 461 development projects identified in the district's regional water  
 462 supply plans.

463 6. A description of each new, expanded, reduced, or  
 464 eliminated program.

465 7. The funding sources, including, but not limited to, ad  
 466 valorem taxes, Surface Water Improvement and Management Program  
 467 funds, other state funds, federal funds, and user fees and  
 468 permit fees for each program area.

469 8. The water management district's capital improvement  
 470 plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year, in  
 471 the same format as required in the preliminary budget.

472 **Section 8. Section 373.6075, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
 473 **to read:**

474 373.6075 Purchases from contracts of other entities.—

475 (1) A water management district may purchase commodities

476 and contractual services, excluding services subject to s.  
477 287.055, from the purchasing contracts of special districts,  
478 municipalities, counties, other political subdivisions,  
479 educational institutions, other states, nonprofit entities,  
480 purchasing cooperatives, or the Federal Government, which have  
481 been procured pursuant to competitive bid, request for proposal,  
482 request for qualification, competitive selection, or competitive  
483 negotiation, and which are otherwise in compliance with general  
484 law if the purchasing contract of the other entity is procured  
485 by a process that meets the procurement requirements of the  
486 water management district.

487 (2) For contractual services for the design, engineering,  
488 or construction, or for any combination of the design,  
489 engineering, or construction, of capital improvement projects  
490 with a total estimated project cost of \$20 million or more, a  
491 water management district shall give preference to the lowest  
492 responsible and responsive bid, proposal, or reply that includes  
493 proof of district-defined acceptable minimum work experience  
494 within this state, project-specific payment and performance  
495 bonds in amounts appropriate for the project contract amount,  
496 and a minimum warranty of 2 years beginning at substantial  
497 completion of the project or that provides proof of a comparable  
498 financial assurance mechanism, as defined by district rule.

499 (3) For the purpose of the competitive selection process  
500 in s. 287.055(4) or the procurement procedures in s. 255.065(3),

501 a water management district shall consider whether a bid,  
 502 proposal, or reply includes appropriate payment and performance  
 503 bonds; proof of a comparable financial assurance mechanism, as  
 504 defined by district rule; or documentation of any and all bond  
 505 faults or bond claims within the last 10 years, including all  
 506 open and closed claims and agreed-upon amounts with a  
 507 description of the claim and any resolution.

508 **Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
 509 **made by this act to section 373.503, Florida Statutes, in a**  
 510 **reference thereto, section 373.0697, Florida Statutes, is**  
 511 **reenacted to read:**

512 373.0697 Basin taxes.—The respective basins may, pursuant  
 513 to s. 9(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution, by resolution  
 514 request the governing board of the district to levy ad valorem  
 515 taxes within such basin. Upon receipt of such request, a basin  
 516 tax levy shall be made by the governing board of the district to  
 517 finance basin functions enumerated in s. 373.0695,  
 518 notwithstanding the provisions of any other general or special  
 519 law to the contrary, and subject to the provisions of s.  
 520 373.503(3).

521 (1) The amount of money to be raised by said tax levy  
 522 shall be determined by the adoption of an annual budget by the  
 523 district board of governors, and the average millage for the  
 524 basin shall be that amount required to raise the amount called  
 525 for by the annual budget when applied to the total assessment of

526 the basin as determined for county taxing purposes. However, no  
527 such tax shall be levied within the basin unless and until the  
528 annual budget and required tax levy shall have been approved by  
529 formal action of the basin board, and no county in the district  
530 shall be taxed under this provision at a rate to exceed 1 mill.

531 (2) The taxes provided for in this section shall be  
532 extended by the county property appraiser on the county tax roll  
533 in each county within, or partly within, the basin and shall be  
534 collected by the tax collector in the same manner and time as  
535 county taxes, and the proceeds therefrom paid to the district  
536 for basin purposes. Said taxes shall be a lien, until paid, on  
537 the property against which assessed and enforceable in like  
538 manner as county taxes. The property appraisers, tax collectors,  
539 and clerks of the circuit court of the respective counties shall  
540 be entitled to compensation for services performed in connection  
541 with such taxes at the same rates as apply to county taxes.

542 (3) It is hereby determined that the taxes authorized by  
543 this subsection are in proportion to the benefits to be derived  
544 by the several parcels of real estate within the basin from the  
545 works authorized herein.

546 **Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
547 **made by this act to section 373.536, Florida Statutes, in a**  
548 **reference thereto, paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of section**  
549 **373.026, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

550 373.026 General powers and duties of the department.—The

551 department, or its successor agency, shall be responsible for  
552 the administration of this chapter at the state level. However,  
553 it is the policy of the state that, to the greatest extent  
554 possible, the department may enter into interagency or  
555 interlocal agreements with any other state agency, any water  
556 management district, or any local government conducting programs  
557 related to or materially affecting the water resources of the  
558 state. All such agreements shall be subject to the provisions of  
559 s. 373.046. In addition to its other powers and duties, the  
560 department shall, to the greatest extent possible:

561 (8)

562 (d) The Executive Office of the Governor, pursuant to its  
563 duties under s. 373.536(5) to approve or disapprove, in whole or  
564 in part, the budget of each water management district, shall  
565 review all proposed expenditures for project components in the  
566 district's budget.

567 **Section 11.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.