

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; requiring that a  
33 | certain levy take effect only upon approval by a  
34 | majority vote of the electors; requiring the  
35 | referendum question to include specified information;  
36 | requiring the resolution to take effect on a specified  
37 | date; providing requirements for the resolution;  
38 | providing requirements for certain millage; defining  
39 | the term "capital improvement projects"; providing the  
40 | maximum total millage rate for all purposes, rather  
41 | than for district and basin purposes; reenacting and  
42 | amending s. 373.535, F.S.; requiring that the  
43 | preliminary budget for each water management district  
44 | include a section that contains the district's capital  
45 | improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the  
46 | next fiscal year; requiring that the section contain  
47 | specified information; requiring the South Florida  
48 | Water Management District to include a section in its  
49 | preliminary budget for all projects within the  
50 | Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; requiring

51 that the section contain specified information;  
52 providing that the South Florida Water Management  
53 District may only incorporate state revenues up to a  
54 specified amount when estimating expenditures for the  
55 next fiscal year; providing an exception; amending s.  
56 373.536, F.S.; authorizing the Legislative Budget  
57 Commission to reject certain district budget  
58 proposals; providing an exception; requiring the South  
59 Florida Water Management District to include in its  
60 budget document certain sections that incorporate the  
61 actual amount of state revenues appropriated for the  
62 fiscal year; requiring a water management district's  
63 tentative budget for its proposed operations and  
64 funding requirements to include the district's capital  
65 improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the  
66 next fiscal year; repealing s. 373.591, F.S., relating  
67 to management review teams; amending s. 373.6075,  
68 F.S.; requiring a water management district to give  
69 preference to certain bids, proposals, or replies for  
70 the design, engineering, or construction, or any  
71 combination thereof, of capital improvement projects  
72 in excess of a specified amount; providing  
73 requirements for the competitive selection process and  
74 procurement procedures; reenacting s. 373.0697, F.S.,  
75 relating to basin taxes, to incorporate the amendment

76 made to s. 373.503, F.S., in a reference thereto;  
 77 reenacting s. 373.026(8)(d), F.S., relating to general  
 78 powers and duties of the Department of Environmental  
 79 Protection, to incorporate the amendment made to s.  
 80 373.536, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an  
 81 effective date.

82

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

84

85 **Section 1. Present paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of**  
 86 **subsection (1) of section 112.3261, Florida Statutes, are**  
 87 **redesignated as paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), respectively, a**  
 88 **new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, subsection (9) is**  
 89 **added to that section, and subsection (7) of that section is**  
 90 **amended, to read:**

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92

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

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

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

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112.3215(1).

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(7) Upon receipt of a sworn complaint alleging that a  
 lobbyist or principal has failed to register with a district,  
has made a prohibited expenditure, or has knowingly submitted  
 false information in a report or registration required under  
 this section, the commission shall investigate a lobbyist or

101 principal pursuant to the procedures established under s.  
 102 112.324. The commission shall provide the Governor with a report  
 103 of its findings and recommendations in any investigation  
 104 conducted pursuant to this subsection. The Governor is  
 105 authorized to enforce the commission's findings and  
 106 recommendations.

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

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

115 373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office;  
 116 staff.—

117 (7) The governing board shall meet at least once a month  
 118 and upon call of the chair. A quorum is necessary for the  
 119 governing board to conduct official business. A majority of the  
 120 members of the governing board, which includes both appointed  
 121 members and vacancies, constitutes a quorum. A board member's  
 122 appearance at a board meeting, whether such appearance is in  
 123 person or through the use of communications media technology,  
 124 must be counted for the determination of a quorum. Except where  
 125 otherwise provided by law, action may be taken by the governing

126 board only upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
127 of the governing board. The governing board, a basin board, a  
128 committee, or an advisory board may conduct meetings by means of  
129 communications media technology in accordance with rules adopted  
130 pursuant to s. 120.54(5)(b) ~~s. 120.54~~.

131 **Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section**  
132 **373.470, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is**  
133 **added to that section, to read:**

134 373.470 Everglades restoration.—

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

141 (c) The district, in cooperation with the department,  
142 shall provide a detailed report on progress made in the  
143 implementation of the comprehensive plan, including the total  
144 estimated remaining cost of implementation of the comprehensive  
145 plan. The report must also include the status of and applicable  
146 performance indicators for all project components. The project  
147 components must be subdivided into the following categories  
148 based on the project's status:

- 149 1. Planning and design phase.  
150 2. Construction phase, for which the performance

151 indicators must include, but are not limited to, whether the  
152 project is on time and on budget based on a schedule performance  
153 index.

154 3. Operational phase, for which the performance indicators  
155 must include, but are not limited to, whether the project is  
156 operating in accordance with the draft operating manual included  
157 in the project implementation report, and an explanation of any  
158 significant modification to the final project operating manual.

159 4. Pending projects phase, which includes project  
160 components that have not yet entered the planning or design  
161 phase initiated after the effective date of this act or the date  
162 of the last report prepared under this subsection, whichever is  
163 later.

164  
165 The information required in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) shall  
166 be provided as part of the consolidated annual report required  
167 by s. 373.036(7). Each annual report is due by March 1.

168 (8) INTEGRATED DELIVERY SCHEDULE.—The Legislature  
169 recognizes the value of the integrated delivery schedule as a  
170 forward-looking snapshot of upcoming planning, design, and  
171 construction schedules for the comprehensive plan and as a tool  
172 that provides information to decisionmakers and facilitates the  
173 achievement of the goals and purposes of the comprehensive plan  
174 at the earliest possible time to the extent practical given  
175 funding, engineering, and other contractual constraints. The

176 Legislature further recognizes that the integrated delivery  
177 schedule acts as a planning document and does not represent a  
178 budgetary or financial commitment on behalf of any of the  
179 members of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.  
180 Therefore, when making recommendations for any update to the  
181 integrated delivery schedule, state and local members of the  
182 task force must identify project funding sources to reflect  
183 whether the project will be funded with recurring state funds  
184 provided pursuant to s. 375.041(3)(b)1., 4., and 5. or with  
185 nonrecurring state funds.

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

188 373.501 Appropriation of funds to water management  
189 districts.—

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

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

195 373.503 Manner of taxation.—

196 (3)(a)1. The districts may, by resolution adopted by a  
197 majority vote of the governing board, levy ad valorem taxes on  
198 property within the district solely for the purposes of this  
199 chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, as amended,  
200 and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as amended. If appropriate,



201 taxes levied by each governing board may be separated by the  
202 governing board into a millage necessary for the purposes of the  
203 district and a millage necessary for financing basin functions  
204 specified in s. 373.0695.

205 2.a. The districts may levy separate ad valorem taxes on  
206 property within the district or basin for the purposes of the  
207 construction of capital improvement projects. Such levy must be  
208 by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the governing board  
209 and conditioned to take effect only upon approval by a majority  
210 vote of the electors in the district or basin, as applicable,  
211 voting in a referendum held at a general election as defined in  
212 s. 97.021. The referendum question on the ballot must specify a  
213 brief and general description of the purpose for the levy and  
214 the maximum length of time the millage may be imposed. The  
215 resolution must take effect on the January 1 immediately  
216 following voter approval of the referendum. The resolution must  
217 include the millage to be levied, a detailed description of the  
218 capital improvement projects to be funded by the millage, the  
219 expected dates of completion of the capital improvement  
220 projects, and the maximum duration for the levy of the millage,  
221 which may not extend beyond the date that the capital  
222 improvement projects are expected to be complete. The millage  
223 levied under this subparagraph may be up to an amount that, when  
224 combined with the millage levied under subparagraph 1., does not  
225 exceed the maximum total millage rate authorized under paragraph

226 (b) .

227 b. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "capital  
 228 improvement projects" means projects related to water supply,  
 229 including alternative water supply and water resource  
 230 development projects identified in the district's regional water  
 231 supply plans, water quality, flood protection and floodplain  
 232 management, and natural systems.

233 (b)-(a) Notwithstanding any other general or special law,  
 234 and subject to subsection (4), the maximum total millage rate  
 235 for all district and basin purposes authorized under this  
 236 section shall be:

- 237 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 238 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 239 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 240 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.
- 241 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.

242 (c)-(b) The apportionment of millages levied under  
 243 subparagraph (a)1. in the South Florida Water Management  
 244 District shall be a maximum of 40 percent for district purposes  
 245 and a maximum of 60 percent for basin purposes, respectively.

246 (d)-(e) Within the Southwest Florida Water Management  
 247 District, the maximum millage assessed for district purposes may  
 248 not exceed 50 percent of the total authorized millage if there  
 249 are one or more basins in the district, and the maximum millage  
 250 assessed for basin purposes may not exceed 50 percent of the

251 total authorized millage.

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

255 373.535 Preliminary district budgets.—

256 (1) BUDGET DEVELOPMENT.—

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

266 (b) Each preliminary budget must also include:

267 1. A section that clearly identifies and provides  
268 justification for each proposed expenditure listed in s.  
269 373.536(5)(e)4.e. and f. and identifies the source of funds for  
270 each proposed expenditure.

271 2. A section identifying the justification for proposed  
272 expenditures by core mission area of responsibility and the  
273 source of funds needed for activities related to water supply,  
274 including alternative water supply and water resource  
275 development projects identified in the district's regional water

276 supply plans, water quality, flood protection and floodplain  
277 management, and natural systems.

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

284 a. Estimated beginning and ending dates.

285 b. Current status, such as planning, construction, or  
286 operations.

287 c. Funding distribution, broken down by federal, state,  
288 local, or other.

289 d. Total cost of the project.

290 e. Whether the project is funded from reserves.

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

292 g. Current year estimated expenditures.

293 h. Annual budget, including future budget requests, until  
294 project completion, by funding source.

295 i. Project description.

296 j. State program code, such as operations and maintenance  
297 or ecosystems restoration.

298 ~~4.3.~~ A section reviewing the adopted and proposed budget  
299 allocations by program area and the performance metrics for the  
300 prior year.

301        ~~5.4.~~ An analysis of each preliminary budget to determine  
302 the adequacy of fiscal resources available to the district and  
303 the adequacy of proposed district expenditures related to the  
304 core mission areas of responsibility for water supply, including  
305 alternative water supply and water resource development projects  
306 identified in the district's regional water supply plans, water  
307 quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural  
308 systems. The analysis must be based on the particular needs  
309 within each district for core mission areas of responsibility.  
310 The water supply analysis must specifically include a  
311 determination of the adequacy of each district's fiscal  
312 resources provided in the district's preliminary budget to  
313 achieve appropriate progress toward meeting the districtwide 20-  
314 year projected water supply demands, including funding for  
315 alternative water supply development and conservation projects.

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

320        (d) In addition to the information that must be included  
321 for projects carried out pursuant to the capital improvement  
322 plan in subparagraph (b)3., the South Florida Water Management  
323 District must include a separate section in its preliminary  
324 budget for all projects within the Comprehensive Everglades  
325 Restoration Plan. The information for the separate section must

326 be provided on a project-by-project basis and include the source  
327 of funds. For each project, all of the following information  
328 must be included:

329 1. The project title and a brief description.

330 2. The total estimated cost of the project, broken down by  
331 federal and nonfederal sponsor obligations. The local sponsor  
332 obligations must be further broken down by state and district  
333 obligations.

334 3. The timeline for the project.

335 4. The total expenditures to date and estimated remaining  
336 expenditures needed for project completion.

337 5. The estimate of expenditures for the current year.

338 6. The estimate of expenditures for the next fiscal year.

339 (e) For expenditures funded by state appropriations, the  
340 South Florida Water Management District must indicate which  
341 fiscal year the appropriation is from. In estimating  
342 expenditures for the next fiscal year, the district may only  
343 incorporate state revenues in an amount up to the amount of  
344 funds specifically provided in s. 375.041(3)(b)1., 4., and 5.,  
345 unless the district commits district revenues on a dollar-for-  
346 dollar basis for any amount over such amount specifically  
347 provided.

348 (2) LEGISLATIVE REVIEW.—

349 (a) The Legislature may annually review the preliminary  
350 budget for each district, including, but not limited to, those

351 items listed in s. 373.536(5)(e)4.d.-f., specific to regulation,  
352 outreach, management, and administration program areas.

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

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

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

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

373 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.—

374 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND  
375 APPROVAL.—

376 (c) The Legislative Budget Commission may reject any of  
377 the following district budget proposals unless specifically  
378 appropriated by the Legislature:

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

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

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

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

387 5. Any individual variance ~~variances~~ in a district's  
388 tentative budget which is in excess of 25 percent from a  
389 district's preliminary budget.

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

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

394

395 Written disapproval of any provision in the tentative budget  
396 must be received by the district at least 5 business days before  
397 the final district budget adoption hearing conducted under s.  
398 200.065(2)(d). If written disapproval is not received at least 5  
399 business days before the final budget adoption hearing, the  
400 governing board may proceed with final adoption. Any provision



401 rejected by the Executive Office of the Governor or the  
402 Legislative Budget Commission may not be included in a  
403 district's final budget and may not be acted upon through any  
404 other means without the prior approval of the entity rejecting  
405 the provision.

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

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

421 2. The estimated amount of unobligated funds or net cash  
422 balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year; an  
423 accounting of the source, balance, and projected future use of  
424 the unobligated funds; and the estimated amount of funds to be  
425 raised by district taxes or received from other sources to meet

426 the requirements of the district.

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

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

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

446  
447 In addition to the program areas reported by all water  
448 management districts, the South Florida Water Management  
449 District shall include in its budget document separate sections  
450 on all costs associated with the Everglades Construction Project

451 and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, incorporating  
 452 the amount of state revenues appropriated for the fiscal year.

453 5. The total estimated amount in the district budget for  
 454 each area of responsibility listed in subparagraph 4. and for  
 455 water resource, water supply, and alternative water supply  
 456 development projects identified in the district's regional water  
 457 supply plans.

458 6. A description of each new, expanded, reduced, or  
 459 eliminated program.

460 7. The funding sources, including, but not limited to, ad  
 461 valorem taxes, Surface Water Improvement and Management Program  
 462 funds, other state funds, federal funds, and user fees and  
 463 permit fees for each program area.

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

467 **Section 8.** Section 373.591, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

468 **Section 9.** **Section 373.6075, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
 469 **to read:**

470 373.6075 Purchases from contracts of other entities.—

471 (1) A water management district may purchase commodities  
 472 and contractual services, excluding services subject to s.  
 473 287.055, from the purchasing contracts of special districts,  
 474 municipalities, counties, other political subdivisions,  
 475 educational institutions, other states, nonprofit entities,

476 purchasing cooperatives, or the Federal Government, which have  
477 been procured pursuant to competitive bid, request for proposal,  
478 request for qualification, competitive selection, or competitive  
479 negotiation, and which are otherwise in compliance with general  
480 law if the purchasing contract of the other entity is procured  
481 by a process that meets the procurement requirements of the  
482 water management district.

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

495 (3) For the purpose of the competitive selection process  
496 in s. 287.055(4) or the procurement procedures in s. 255.065(3),  
497 a water management district shall consider whether a bid,  
498 proposal, or reply includes appropriate payment and performance  
499 bonds; proof of a comparable financial assurance mechanism, as  
500 defined by district rule; or documentation of any and all bond

501 faults or bond claims within the last 10 years, including all  
 502 open and closed claims and agreed-upon amounts with a  
 503 description of the claim and any resolution.

504 **Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
 505 **made by this act to section 373.503, Florida Statutes, in a**  
 506 **reference thereto, section 373.0697, Florida Statutes, is**  
 507 **reenacted to read:**

508 373.0697 Basin taxes.—The respective basins may, pursuant  
 509 to s. 9(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution, by resolution  
 510 request the governing board of the district to levy ad valorem  
 511 taxes within such basin. Upon receipt of such request, a basin  
 512 tax levy shall be made by the governing board of the district to  
 513 finance basin functions enumerated in s. 373.0695,  
 514 notwithstanding the provisions of any other general or special  
 515 law to the contrary, and subject to the provisions of s.  
 516 373.503(3).

517 (1) The amount of money to be raised by said tax levy  
 518 shall be determined by the adoption of an annual budget by the  
 519 district board of governors, and the average millage for the  
 520 basin shall be that amount required to raise the amount called  
 521 for by the annual budget when applied to the total assessment of  
 522 the basin as determined for county taxing purposes. However, no  
 523 such tax shall be levied within the basin unless and until the  
 524 annual budget and required tax levy shall have been approved by  
 525 formal action of the basin board, and no county in the district

526 shall be taxed under this provision at a rate to exceed 1 mill.

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

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

542 **Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
 543 **made by this act to section 373.536, Florida Statutes, in a**  
 544 **reference thereto, paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of section**  
 545 **373.026, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

546 373.026 General powers and duties of the department.—The  
 547 department, or its successor agency, shall be responsible for  
 548 the administration of this chapter at the state level. However,  
 549 it is the policy of the state that, to the greatest extent  
 550 possible, the department may enter into interagency or

551 interlocal agreements with any other state agency, any water  
552 management district, or any local government conducting programs  
553 related to or materially affecting the water resources of the  
554 state. All such agreements shall be subject to the provisions of  
555 s. 373.046. In addition to its other powers and duties, the  
556 department shall, to the greatest extent possible:

557 (8)

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

563 **Section 12.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.