

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the water management districts;  
 3           reenacting ss. 373.069, 373.0693, 373.0695, 373.073, and  
 4           373.083, F.S., relating to the creation of the water  
 5           management districts, pursuant to the provisions of the  
 6           Florida Government Accountability Act; amending s.  
 7           373.0693, F.S.; eliminating the Oklawaha River Basin  
 8           Advisory Council; amending s. 373.323, F.S.; providing for  
 9           applicants who meet certain conditions to be certified as  
 10          a licensed water well contractor; amending s. 373.536,  
 11          F.S.; authorizing certain chairs of committees of the  
 12          Senate and the House of Representatives to submit comments  
 13          and objections to proposed budgets; amending s. 373.079,  
 14          F.S.; revising meeting requirements for members of the  
 15          governing boards of the water management districts, as  
 16          provided in s. 120.54, F.S.; providing an effective date.

17  
 18           WHEREAS, ss. 11.901-11.920, Florida Statutes, the Florida  
 19          Government Accountability Act, subjects the water management  
 20          districts and each district's respective advisory committees to  
 21          a sunset review process in order to determine whether the  
 22          districts should be retained, modified, or abolished, and

23           WHEREAS, the water management districts produced reports  
 24          providing specific information, as enumerated in s. 11.906,  
 25          Florida Statutes, and

26           WHEREAS, upon receipt of the reports, the Joint  
 27          Legislative Sunset Committee and committees of the Senate and  
 28          the House of Representatives assigned to act as sunset review

29 | committees reviewed the reports and requested studies by the  
 30 | Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
 31 | Accountability, and

32 |         WHEREAS, based on the reports of the water management  
 33 | districts, studies of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
 34 | Government Accountability, and public input, the Joint  
 35 | Legislative Sunset Committee and legislative sunset review  
 36 | committees made recommendations on the abolition, continuation,  
 37 | or reorganization of the water management districts and each  
 38 | district's advisory committees; on the need for the functions  
 39 | performed by the districts and the advisory committees; and on  
 40 | the consolidation, transfer, or reorganization of programs  
 41 | within the water management districts, NOW, THEREFORE,

42 |  
 43 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44 |  
 45 |         Section 1. Sections 373.069, 373.0693, 373.0695, 373.073,  
 46 | and 373.083, Florida Statutes are reenacted.

47 |         Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section  
 48 | 373.0693, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

49 |         373.0693 Basins; basin boards.--

50 |         (8) (a) At 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 1988, the area  
 51 | transferred from the Southwest Florida Water Management District  
 52 | to the St. Johns River Water Management District by change of  
 53 | boundaries pursuant to chapter 76-243, Laws of Florida, shall  
 54 | cease to be a subdistrict or basin of the St. Johns River Water  
 55 | Management District known as the Oklawaha River Basin and said  
 56 | Oklawaha River Basin shall cease to exist. However, any

57 recognition of an Oklawaha River Basin or an Oklawaha River  
 58 Hydrologic Basin for regulatory purposes shall be unaffected.  
 59 The area formerly known as the Oklawaha River Basin shall  
 60 continue to be part of the St. Johns River Water Management  
 61 District. ~~There shall be established by the governing board of~~  
 62 ~~the St. Johns River Water Management District the Oklawaha River~~  
 63 ~~Basin Advisory Council to receive public input and advise the~~  
 64 ~~St. Johns River Water Management District's governing board on~~  
 65 ~~water management issues affecting the Oklawaha River Basin. The~~  
 66 ~~Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council shall be appointed by~~  
 67 ~~action of the St. Johns River Water Management District's~~  
 68 ~~governing board and shall include one representative from each~~  
 69 ~~county which is wholly or partly included in the Oklawaha River~~  
 70 ~~Basin. The St. Johns River Water Management District's governing~~  
 71 ~~board member currently serving pursuant to s. 373.073(2)(c)3.~~  
 72 ~~shall serve as chair of the Oklawaha River Basin Advisory~~  
 73 ~~Council. Members of the Oklawaha River Basin Advisory Council~~  
 74 ~~shall receive no compensation for their services but are~~  
 75 ~~entitled to be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as~~  
 76 ~~provided in s. 112.061.~~

77 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 373.323, Florida  
 78 Statutes, is amended to read:

79 373.323 Licensure of water well contractors; application,  
 80 qualifications, and examinations; equipment identification.--

81 (3) An applicant who meets the following requirements  
 82 shall be entitled to take the water well contractor licensure  
 83 examination ~~to practice water well contracting:~~

84 (a) Is at least 18 years of age.

85 (b) Has at least 2 years of experience in constructing,  
 86 repairing, or abandoning water wells. Satisfactory proof of such  
 87 experience shall be demonstrated by providing:

88 1. Evidence of the length of time the applicant has been  
 89 engaged in the business of the construction, abandonment, and  
 90 repair of water wells as a major activity, as attested to by  
 91 three letters from any of the following persons:

- 92 a. Water well contractors.
- 93 b. Water well drillers.
- 94 c. Water well parts and equipment vendors.
- 95 d. Water well inspectors employed by a governmental  
 96 agency.

97 2. A list of at least 10 water wells that the applicant  
 98 has constructed, repaired, or abandoned, which includes the  
 99 following information:

- 100 a. The name and address of the owner or owners of each  
 101 well.
- 102 b. The location, primary use, and approximate depth and  
 103 diameter of each well that the applicant has constructed,  
 104 repaired, or abandoned.
- 105 c. The approximate date the construction, repair, or  
 106 abandonment of each well was completed.

107 3. All listed wells must have been constructed, repaired,  
 108 or abandoned within 5 years immediately preceding the filing of  
 109 the license application. At least seven of the 10 water wells  
 110 must have been constructed by the applicant, as defined in s.  
 111 373.303(2).

112 (c) Has completed the application form and remitted a

113 nonrefundable application fee.

114 Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (5) of section  
115 373.536, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

116 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

117 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND  
118 APPROVAL.--

119 (e) By September 5 of the year in which the budget is  
120 submitted, the House and Senate appropriations and appropriate  
121 substantive committee chairs may transmit to each district  
122 comments and objections to the proposed budgets. Each district  
123 governing board shall include a response to such comments and  
124 objections in the record of the governing board meeting where  
125 final adoption of the budget takes place, and the record of this  
126 meeting shall be transmitted to the Executive Office of the  
127 Governor, the department, and the chairs of the House and Senate  
128 appropriations committees.

129 Section 5. Subsection (7) of section 373.079, Florida  
130 Statutes, is amended to read:

131 373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office;  
132 staff.--

133 (7) The governing board shall meet at least once a month  
134 and upon call of the chair. The governing board, a basin board,  
135 a committee, or an advisory board may conduct meetings by means  
136 of communications media technology as provided in the uniform  
137 rules of procedure adopted pursuant to s. 120.54.

138 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.