

By Senator Soto

14-00957-13

2013978

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Springs Revival Act; creating  
3           s. 373.198, F.S.; requiring water management districts  
4           to identify certain springs, develop certain plans,  
5           and submit certain reports to the Governor and the  
6           Legislature; authorizing the districts to adopt rules  
7           and issue orders; providing an effective date.

8  
9           WHEREAS, Florida's springs are natural treasures that  
10          provide world-class recreation and ecotourism, and

11          WHEREAS, Florida's springs are integral to our water supply  
12          and essential to our quality of life, and

13          WHEREAS, according to the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs  
14          Institute, Florida's springs have been declining in magnitude  
15          for the past 50 years, and

16          WHEREAS, strong measures must be taken to ensure the  
17          survival of Florida's springs for future generations, NOW,  
18          THEREFORE,

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

21  
22          Section 1. Section 373.198, Florida Statutes, is created to  
23          read:

24          373.198 Springs Revival Act.—

25          (1) By October 1, 2013, each water management district,  
26          with technical support provided by the Florida Geological Survey  
27          or another appropriate state or federal agency, shall identify  
28          the first and second magnitude springs within the district that  
29          are in decline based upon historic average water quality and

14-00957-13

2013978\_\_

30 flow levels that are not identified in the department's rule for  
31 impaired water bodies.

32 (2) By July 1, 2014, each water management district shall  
33 develop a 5-year plan to restore historic average water quality  
34 and flow levels to the springs identified pursuant to subsection  
35 (1) and in the department's impaired water bodies rule. The plan  
36 may use or include existing plans and studies.

37 (3) Each water management district may adopt rules or issue  
38 orders as necessary to implement this section.

39 (4) Beginning January 1, 2014, and quarterly thereafter,  
40 each water management district shall submit a report on the  
41 progress of the restoration efforts required by this section to  
42 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
43 the House of Representatives.

44 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.