HB 109 2013

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to consumptive use permits for development of alternative water supplies; amending s. 373.236, F.S.; specifying conditions for issuance of permits; providing for issuance, extension, and review of permits approved after a specified date; providing for applicability and construction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 373.236, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.236 Duration of permits; compliance reports.-

water supplies shall be granted for a term of at least 20 years if there is sufficient data to provide reasonable assurance that the conditions for permit issuance will be met for the duration of the permit. However, if the permittee issues bonds for the construction of the project, upon request of the permittee before prior to the expiration of the permit, the that permit shall be extended for such additional time as is required for the retirement of bonds, not including any refunding or refinancing of such bonds, if provided that the governing board determines that the use will continue to meet the conditions for the issuance of the permit. Such a permit is subject to compliance reports under subsection (4).

(b) 1. Permits approved on or after July 1, 2013, for the

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development of alternative water supplies shall be granted for a term of at least 30 years if there is sufficient data to provide reasonable assurance that the conditions for permit issuance will be met for the duration of the permit. If, within 7 years after a permit is granted, the permittee issues bonds to finance the project, completes construction of the project, and requests an extension of the permit duration, the permit shall be extended to expire upon the retirement of such bonds or 30 years after the date construction of the project is complete, whichever occurs later. However, a permit's duration may not be extended by more than 7 years beyond the permit's original expiration date.

- 2. Permits issued under this paragraph are subject to compliance reports under subsection (4). However, if the permittee demonstrates that bonds issued to finance the project are outstanding, the quantity of alternative water allocated in the permit may not be reduced during a compliance report review unless a reduction is needed to address unanticipated harm to water resources or to existing legal uses present when the permit was issued. A reduction required by an applicable water shortage order shall apply to permits issued under this paragraph.
- 3. Permits issued under this paragraph may not authorize the use of nonbrackish groundwater supplies or nonalternative water supplies.
- (c) Entities that wish to develop alternative water supplies may apply for a permit under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).

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

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