## Florida Senate - 2007

 ${\bf By}$  the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation; and Senator Oelrich

	592-2287-07
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to springs; creating the
3	"Florida Springs Protection Act"; creating s.
4	369.402, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
5	creating s. 369.403, F.S.; defining terms;
6	creating s. 369.407, F.S.; prescribing duties
7	of the Department of Environmental Protection,
8	alone and in coordination with other
9	governmental entities, with respect to
10	protection of springs and surrounding lands;
11	requiring a report; providing an effective
12	date.
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14	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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16	Section 1. Part IV of chapter 369, Florida Statutes,
17	consisting of sections 369.401, 369.402, 369.403, and 369.407,
18	is created to read:
19	369.401 Short titleThis part may be cited as the
20	"Florida Springs Protection Act."
21	<u>369.402 Legislative intent</u>
22	(1) The Legislature recognizes that the springs in
23	this state are a precious and fragile natural resource that
24	must be protected. Florida's springs provide recreational and
25	tourism opportunities and are a great financial benefit to
26	local economies. In addition, springs provide critical habitat
27	for endangered or threatened species of plants and animals and
28	serve as indicators of the quality of groundwater resources in
29	general.
30	(2) The Legislature recognizes that a spring is only

1	groundwater that supplies springs is recharged by seepage from
2	the surface and through direct conduits such as sinkholes. As
3	a result, the health of spring systems is directly influenced
4	by activities and land uses within the springshed.
5	(3) The Legislature recognizes that springsheds and
б	areas of high vulnerability within springsheds are not clearly
7	delineated and that, as the first step in adequately
8	protecting springs, the springsheds must be delineated and
9	characterized using the best available data.
10	(4) The Legislature recognizes that the Department of
11	Environmental Protection, the water management districts, the
12	United States Geological Survey, and others have initiated
13	efforts to delineate the springsheds of this state's 33
14	<u>first-magnitude springs.</u>
15	(5) The Legislature recognizes that springshed
16	delineations and the location of areas of high vulnerability
17	within springsheds are critical information needed by local
18	governments in the preparation of comprehensive plans and plan
19	amendments in order to provide for land uses and protection
20	strategies that are compatible with protection of quantity and
21	quality of groundwater recharge within a springshed.
22	369.403 DefinitionsAs used in this part, the term:
23	(1) "High vulnerability zone" means the geographic
24	area within a springshed delineated by the Department of
25	Environmental Protection and the appropriate water management
26	district which contributes most directly to the water quantity
27	and quality of the spring.
28	(2) "Spring" means a point where groundwater is
29	discharged onto the earth's surface, including under any
30	surface water of the state, excluding seeps.
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1	(3) "Springshed" means those areas within the
2	groundwater and surface water basins which contribute to the
3	<u>discharge of a spring.</u>
4	367.407 Delineation of springsheds and high
5	vulnerability zones
6	(1) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
7	coordination with the water management districts and the
8	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall create
9	a priority list and schedule for delineation of the springshed
10	and high vulnerability zones within each springshed for this
11	state's 33 first-magnitude springs. The priority list and
12	schedule shall include a consideration of:
13	(a) Work already completed;
14	(b) The degree of threat to the spring based on
15	existing water quality and water quantity impacts;
16	(c) Projected development patterns; and
17	(d) Existing and reasonably expected funding and
18	resources available to complete the work.
19	(2) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
20	coordination with the water management districts and the
21	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall develop
22	criteria for the delineation of high vulnerability zones
23	within a springshed.
24	(3) By January 30, 2008, the Department of
25	Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the
26	Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
27	House of Representatives on the status of springshed
28	delineation which includes:
29	(a) The status of the delineation of the springshed
30	and high vulnerability areas within each springshed for each
31	of the 33 first-magnitude springs.
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1	(b) The priority list and schedule developed under
2	subsection (1).
3	(c) The criteria developed for the delineation of high
4	vulnerability zones within a springshed developed under
5	subsection (2).
6	(d) Identification of any additional funding and
7	resources needed to complete the delineation of the
8	springsheds and high vulnerability areas within each
9	springshed.
10	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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12	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR   13 Senate Bill 1486	
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15	Requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
16	Services and the appropriate water management districts, to
first magnitude springs. The department shall provide	springsheds and high vulnerability zones for Florida's 33
	on the status of springshed delineation to the Governor, the
	Representatives no later than January 30, 2008.
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