1

A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to environmental permitting; amending s. 3 373.4144, F.S.; providing legislative intent; requiring 4 the Department of Environmental Protection to pursue the 5 issuance of a state programmatic permit or regional 6 general permits from the United States Army Corps of 7 Engineers; revising provisions requiring the Department of 8 Environmental Protection to develop and use a mechanism 9 consolidating federal and state wetland permitting 10 programs; authorizing implementation of a state programmatic general permit or regional general permits by 11 the department and water management districts for certain 12 13 dredge and fill activities; specifying conditions 14 applicable to such permits; amending s. 373.4211, F.S.; 15 delaying the effective date of a rule adding slash pine 16 and gallberry to the list of facultative plants; revising provisions concerning the methodologies used to delineate 17 the landward extent of wetlands and surface waters; 18 19 revising provisions concerning the vegetative index used to delineate the landward extent of wetlands and surface 20 21 waters; providing for permit modification under certain 22 circumstances; providing for certain declaratory 23 statements or formal jurisdictional determinations from 24 the department or a water management district; providing 25 exemptions for certain permit petitions and applications 26 relating to specified activities; creating ss. 125.0112, 27 F.S.; providing that the construction and operation of a 28 biofuel processing facility or a renewable energy

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29 generating facility may be considered a valid industrial, 30 agricultural, and silvicultural use for purposes of any 31 local comprehensive plan; providing that the cultivation 32 and production of bioenergy is a valid industrial, agricultural, and silvicultural use for purposes of any 33 34 local comprehensive plan; providing for a local government 35 to establish an expedited review process under certain 36 circumstances; providing that local expedited review does 37 not obligate a local government to approve proposed uses; 38 providing for alternative state review of certain plan amendments; providing the construction and operation of 39 certain facilities may not affect classification of 40 property for ad valorem tax purposes; amending s. 373.236, 41 42 F.S.; requiring that a permit for the use of water for 43 cultivating agricultural products and renewable energy be 44 granted for a specified number of years if certain conditions are met; providing requirements for permittees; 45 providing an exemption; amending s. 403.973, F.S.; 46 47 providing for the expedited review of permit applications for projects resulting in the production of biofuels or in 48 49 the construction of a biofuel or biodiesel processing 50 facility or renewable energy generating facility; 51 clarifying provisions relating to memoranda of agreement 52 which establish regional teams for the expedited review of 53 such applications; providing an effective date. 54 55 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 56 Section 373.4144, Florida Statutes, is amended Section 1.

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57	to read:
58	373.4144 Federal environmental permitting
59	(1) The Legislature intends to facilitate coordination and
60	a more efficient process of implementing regulatory duties and
61	functions between the Department of Environmental Protection,
62	the water management districts, the United States Army Corps of
63	Engineers, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the
64	National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States
65	Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife
66	Conservation Commission, and other relevant federal and state
67	agencies. The department is directed to develop, on or before
68	October 1, 2005, a mechanism or plan to consolidate, to the
69	maximum extent practicable, the federal and state wetland
70	permitting programs. It is the intent of the Legislature that
71	all dredge and fill activities impacting 10 acres or less of
72	wetlands or waters, including navigable waters, be processed by
73	the state as part of the environmental resource permitting
74	program implemented by the department and the water management
75	districts. The resulting mechanism or plan shall analyze and
76	propose the development of an expanded state programmatic
77	general permit program in conjunction with the United States
78	Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to s. 404 of the Clean Water
79	Act, Pub. L. No. 92-500, as amended, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq.,
80	and s. 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Alternatively,
81	or in combination with an expanded state programmatic general
82	permit, the mechanism or plan may propose the creation of a
83	series of regional general permits issued by the United States
84	Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to the referenced statutes. All
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85 of the regional general permits must be administered by the department or the water management districts or their designees. 86 87 (2) (a) The department shall pursue the issuance by the 88 United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to state and 89 federal law and as set forth in this section, of an expanded 90 state programmatic general permit or a series of regional 91 general permits for categories of activities in waters of the 92 United States governed by the Clean Water Act and in navigable 93 waters under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which are 94 similar in nature, which will cause only minimal adverse 95 environmental effects when performed separately, and which will 96 have only minimal cumulative adverse effects on the environment. 97 (b) The department is directed to: 98 1. Use the mechanism of a state general permit or regional 99 general permits to eliminate overlapping federal regulations and 100 state rules that seek to protect the same resource and to avoid 101 duplication of permitting between the United States Army Corps 102 of Engineers and the department for minor work located in waters 103 of the United States, including navigable waters, thus 104 eliminating, in appropriate cases, the need for a separate 105 individual approval from the United States Army Corps of 106 Engineers while ensuring the most stringent protection of 107 wetland resources; and 108 2. Not seek issuance of or take any action pursuant to any 109 such permits unless the conditions are at least as protective of 110 the environment and natural resources as existing state law 111 under this part and federal law under the Clean Water Act and 112 the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

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113 The department shall report to the Legislature by (C) 114 January 15 of each year on efforts to eliminate impediments to 115 achieving greater efficiencies through expansion of a state 116 programmatic general permit or regional general permits. 117 (3) (2) To effectuate efficient wetland permitting and 118 avoid duplication, the department and water management districts 119 may implement a voluntary state programmatic general permit for 120 all dredge and fill activities impacting 5 acres or less of wetlands or other surface waters, including navigable waters, 121 122 subject to agreement with the United States Army Corps of 123 Engineers, if the general permit is at least as protective of 124 the environment and natural resources as existing state law 125 under this part and federal law under the Clean Water Act and 126 the Rivers and Harbors 127 Act of 1899. This subsection does not prevent the department or 128 water management districts from pursuing and implementing a 129 state programmatic permit for projects impacting more than 5 130 acres of wetlands or other surface waters. The department is 131 directed to file with the Speaker of the House of 132 Representatives and the President of the Senate a report 133 proposing any required federal and state statutory changes that 134 would be necessary to accomplish the directives listed in this 135 section and to coordinate with the Florida Congressional 136 Delegation on any necessary changes to federal law to implement 137 the directives. (4) (3) Nothing in This section does not shall be construed 138 139 to preclude the department from pursuing a series of regional 140 general permits for construction activities in wetlands or Page 5 of 18

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141 surface waters or the complete assumption of federal permitting programs regulating the discharge of dredged or fill material 142 143 pursuant to s. 404 of the Clean Water Act, Pub. L. No. 92-500, 144 as amended, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq., and s. 10 of the Rivers 145 and Harbors Act of 1899, so long as the assumption encompasses 146 all dredge and fill activities in, on, or over jurisdictional 147 wetlands or waters, including navigable waters, within the 148 state.

149 (5) (a) In order to assist in facilitating the objectives 150 of this section and to promote consistency between federal and 151 state mitigation requirements, the department and water 152 management districts shall compare their rules regarding 153 mitigation for adverse impacts to the mitigation rules of the 154 United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States 155 Environmental Protection Agency in 73 Federal Register, pages 156 19594-19705 (2008). The comparison shall be done in consultation 157 with appropriate representatives of the United States Army Corps 158 of Engineers and the United States Environmental Protection 159 Agency. After performing the comparison, the department and 160 water management districts shall: 161 Identify any inconsistent or contradictory provisions; 1. 162 and 163 2. Recommend appropriate revisions to the rules of the 164 department or water management districts to reduce inconsistent 165 or contradictory requirements in such a manner that will not 166 lessen environmental protection. The recommendations shall 167 include a consideration for increasing the geographic size of drainage basins and regional watersheds to facilitate or reflect 168

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169 a watershed approach to mitigation.

170 The department and water management districts shall (b) 171 submit a consolidated report regarding the requirements of this 172 subsection to the Governor, the Chair of the Senate 173 Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee, and the 174 Chair of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy 175 Committee by January 15, 2010. If the department and water 176 management districts believe any conflicting state law prevents 177 them from amending their rules to achieve the objectives of this 178 subsection, the report must identify such law and explain why it 179 prevents a rule amendment to achieve the objectives of this 180 subsection.

181 Section 2. Subsection (19) of section 373.4211, Florida182 Statutes, is amended to read:

183 373.4211 Ratification of chapter 17-340, Florida 184 Administrative Code, on the delineation of the landward extent 185 of wetlands and surface waters.--Pursuant to s. 373.421, the 186 Legislature ratifies chapter 17-340, Florida Administrative 187 Code, approved on January 13, 1994, by the Environmental 188 Regulation Commission, with the following changes:

189 (19)(a) Rule 17-340.450(3) is amended by adding, after the 190 species list, the following language:

191 "Within Monroe County and the Key Largo portion of Miami-192 Dade County only, the following species shall be listed as 193 facultative: Alternanthera paronychioides, Byrsonima lucida, 194 Ernodea littoralis, Guapira discolor, Marnilkara bahamensis, 195 Pisonis rotundata, Pithecellobium keyensis, Pithecellobium 196 unquis-cati, Randia aculeata, Reynosia septentrionalis, and

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197 Thrinax radiata."

,	
198	(b) Pursuant to s. 373.421 and subject to the conditions
199	described in this paragraph, the Legislature ratifies the
200	changes to rule 62-340.450(3), Florida Administrative Code,
201	approved on February 23, 2006, by the Environmental Regulation
202	Commission which added slash pine (Pinus elliottii) and
203	gallberry (Ilex glabra) to the list of facultative plants.
204	However, this ratification and the rule revision will not take
205	effect until a voluntary state programmatic general permit for
206	all dredge and fill activities affecting 5 acres or less of
207	wetlands or other surface waters is implemented as provided in
208	<u>s. 373.4144(3).</u>
209	(c) Unless the holder of a valid permit elects to use the
210	delineation line as amended to add slash pine (Pinus elliottii)
211	and gallberry (Ilex glabra) to the list of facultative plants,
212	the surface water and wetland delineations identified and
213	approved by a permit issued under rules adopted under this part
214	before July 1, 2009, remain valid until expiration of the
215	permit, notwithstanding the changes to rule 62-340.450(3),
216	Florida Administrative Code, as described in this subsection.
217	For purposes of this paragraph, the term "identified and
218	approved" means:
219	1. The delineation was field-verified by the permitting
220	agency and such verification was surveyed as part of the
221	application review process for the permit; or
222	2. The delineation was field-verified by the permitting
223	agency and approved pursuant to the permit.
224	
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225	Where surface water and wetland delineations were not identified
226	and approved pursuant to the permit issued under rules adopted
227	under this part, delineations within the geographical area to
228	which the permit applies shall be determined pursuant to the
229	rules applicable at the time the permit was issued,
230	notwithstanding the changes to rule 62-340.450(3), Florida
231	Administrative Code, as described in this subsection. This
232	paragraph also applies to any modification of the permit issued
233	under rules adopted pursuant to this part which does not
234	constitute a substantial modification within the geographical
235	area to which the permit applies.
236	(d) Unless the petitioner elects to use the delineation
237	line as amended to add slash pine (Pinus elliottii) and
238	gallberry (Ilex glabra) to the list of facultative plants, any
239	declaratory statement issued by the department under s. 403.914,
240	1984 Supplement to the Florida Statutes 1983 as amended,
241	pursuant to rules adopted thereunder, or formal determination
242	issued by the department or a water management district under s.
243	373.421, in response to a petition filed on or before July 1,
244	2009, shall continue to be valid for the duration of such
245	declaratory statement or formal determination. Any petition
246	pending on or before July 1, 2009, is exempt from the changes to
247	rule 62-340.450(3), Florida Administrative Code, as described in
248	this subsection, and is subject to the provisions of chapter 62-
249	340, Florida Administrative Code, in effect prior to such
250	change. Activities proposed within the boundaries of a valid
251	declaratory statement or formal determination issued pursuant to
252	a petition submitted to the department or the relevant water
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253	management district on or before July 1, 2009, or within the
254	boundaries of a revalidated jurisdictional determination prior
255	to its expiration, shall continue to be exempt after July 1,
256	2009 from the changes to rule 62-340.450(3), Florida
257	Administrative Code, as described in this subsection.
258	Section 3. Section 125.0112, Florida Statutes, is created
259	to read:
260	125.0112 Biofuels and renewable energyThe construction
261	and operation of a biofuel processing facility or a renewable
262	energy generating facility, as defined in s. 366.91(2)(d), may
263	be considered by a local government to be a valid industrial,
264	agricultural, and silvicultural use permitted within those land
265	use categories in the local comprehensive land use plan. The
266	cultivation and production of bioenergy, as defined in s.
267	570.957(1)(a), shall be considered by a local government to be a
268	valid industrial, agricultural, and silvicultural use permitted
269	within those land use categories in the local comprehensive land
270	use plan. If the local comprehensive plan does not specifically
271	allow for the construction of a biofuel processing facility or
272	renewable energy facility, the local government shall establish
273	a specific review process that may include expediting local
274	review of any necessary comprehensive plan amendment, zoning
275	change, use permit, waiver, variance, or special exemption.
276	Local expedited review of a proposed biofuel processing facility
277	or a renewable energy facility does not obligate a local
278	government to approved such proposed use. A comprehensive plan
279	amendment necessary to accommodate a biofuel processing facility
280	or renewable energy facility shall, if approved by the local
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281	government, be eligible for the alternative state review process
282	in s. 163.32465. The construction and operation of a facility
283	and related improvements on a portion of a property under this
284	section shall not affect the remainder of the property's
285	classification as agricultural under s. 193.461.
286	Section 4. Subsection (6) is added to section 373.236,
287	Florida Statutes, to read:
288	373.236 Duration of permits; compliance reports
289	(6) A permit that is approved for the use of water for a
290	renewable energy operating facility or for cultivating
291	agricultural products on lands consisting of 1,000 acres or more
292	for renewable energy, as defined in s. 366.91(2)(d), shall, upon
293	the applicant's request, be granted for a term of at least 25
294	years based on the anticipated life of the facility if there is
295	sufficient data to provide reasonable assurance that the
296	conditions for issuing a permit will be met for the duration of
297	the permit. However, a permit may be issued for a shorter
298	duration that reflects the longest period for which such
299	reasonable assurances are provided. The permittee shall provide
300	a compliance report every 5 years during the term of the permit
301	as required under subsection (4).
302	Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 373.243, Florida
303	Statutes, is amended to read:
304	373.243 Revocation of permitsThe governing board or the
305	department may revoke a permit as follows:
306	(4) For nonuse of the water supply allowed by the permit
307	for a period of 2 years or more, the governing board or the
308	department may revoke the permit permanently and in whole unless
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309 the user can prove that his or her nonuse was due to extreme 310 hardship caused by factors beyond the user's control. However, 311 for a permit with a duration determined under s. 373.236(6), the 312 governing board or the department may revoke the permit only if 313 the nonuse of the water supply allowed by the permit is for a 314 period of 4 years or more. 315 Section 6. Subsections (3), (4), (7), and (11), paragraph 316 (b) of subsection (13), paragraph (b) of subsection (14), 317 subsection (15), and paragraph (b) of subsection (19) of section 318 403.973, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 319 403.973 Expedited permitting; comprehensive plan 320 amendments.--(3) (a) The Governor, through the office, shall direct the 321 322 creation of regional permit action teams, for the purpose of expediting review of permit applications and local comprehensive 323 324 plan amendments submitted by: 325 Businesses creating at least 100 jobs, or 1. 326 Businesses creating at least 50 jobs if the project is 2. 327 located in an enterprise zone, or in a county having a 328 population of less than 75,000 or in a county having a 329 population of less than 100,000 which is contiguous to a county 330 having a population of less than 75,000, as determined by the 331 most recent decennial census, residing in incorporated and 332 unincorporated areas of the county. τ or 333 (b) On a case-by-case basis and at the request of a county 334 or municipal government, the office may certify as eligible for expedited review a project not meeting the minimum job creation 335 336 thresholds but creating a minimum of 10 jobs. The recommendation

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337 from the governing body of the county or municipality in which 338 the project may be located is required in order for the office 339 to certify that any project is eligible for expedited review 340 under this paragraph. When considering projects that do not meet 341 the minimum job creation thresholds but that are recommended by 342 the governing body in which the project may be located, the 343 office shall consider economic impact factors that include, but are not limited to: 344

The proposed wage and skill levels relative to those
 existing in the area in which the project may be located;

347 2. The project's potential to diversify and strengthen the 348 area's economy;

349

3. The amount of capital investment; and

350 4. The number of jobs that will be made available for351 persons served by the welfare transition program.

352 (c) At the request of a county or municipal government, 353 the office or a Quick Permitting County may certify projects 354 located in counties where the ratio of new jobs per participant 355 in the welfare transition program, as determined by Workforce 356 Florida, Inc., is less than one or otherwise critical, as 357 eligible for the expedited permitting process. Such projects 358 must meet the numerical job creation criteria of this 359 subsection, but the jobs created by the project do not have to be high-wage jobs that diversify the state's economy. 360

361 (d) Projects located in a designated brownfield area are362 eligible for the expedited permitting process.

363 (e) Projects that are part of the state-of-the-art364 biomedical research institution and campus to be established in

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this state by the grantee under s. 288.955 are eligible for the expedited permitting process, if the projects are designated as part of the institution or campus by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the institution and campus are established.

370 (f) Projects that result in the production of biofuels 371 cultivated on lands consisting of 1,000 acres or more, or in the 372 construction of a biofuel or biodiesel processing facility or 373 renewable energy generating facility as defined in s. 374 <u>366.91(2)(d), are eligible for the expedited permitting process.</u> 375 (4) The regional teams shall be established through the

376 execution of memoranda of agreement developed by the applicant 377 and between the office with input solicited from and the 378 respective heads of the Department of Environmental Protection, 379 the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of 380 Transportation and its district offices, the Department of 381 Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Fish and Wildlife 382 Conservation Commission, appropriate regional planning councils, 383 appropriate water management districts, and voluntarily 384 participating municipalities and counties. The memoranda of 385 agreement must should also accommodate participation in the this 386 expedited process by other local governments and federal 387 agencies as circumstances warrant.

388 (7) <u>An appeal</u> At the option of the participating local 389 government, appeals of <u>a local government's</u> its final approval 390 for a project <u>must may</u> be <u>conducted</u> pursuant to the summary 391 hearing provisions <u>in</u> of s. 120.574, pursuant to subsection 392 (14), and consolidated with the challenge of applicable state

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393 agency actions, if any or pursuant to other appellate processes 394 available to the local government. The local government's 395 decision to enter into a summary hearing must be made as 396 provided in s. 120.574 or in the memorandum of agreement. 397 The standard form memorandum memoranda of agreement (11)398 must shall include guidelines to be used in working with state, 399 regional, and local permitting authorities. Guidelines may 400 include, but are not limited to, the following: 401 (a) A central contact point for filing permit applications 402 and local comprehensive plan amendments and for obtaining 403 information on permit and local comprehensive plan amendment 404 requirements; Identification of the individual or individuals within 405 (b) 406 each respective agency who will be responsible for processing 407 the expedited permit application or local comprehensive plan 408 amendment for the that agency; 409 A mandatory preapplication review process to reduce (C) 410 permitting conflicts by providing guidance to applicants 411 regarding the permits needed from each agency and governmental 412 entity, site planning and development, site suitability and 413 limitations, facility design, and steps the applicant can take 414 to ensure expeditious permit application and local comprehensive 415 plan amendment review. As a part of the this process, the first 416 interagency meeting to discuss a project shall be held within 14 417 days after the office's determination that the project is 418 eligible for expedited review. Subsequent interagency meetings 419 may be scheduled to accommodate the needs of participating local 420 governments that are unable to meet public notice requirements

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for executing a memorandum of agreement within <u>the</u> this timeframe. <u>Such</u> This accommodation may not exceed 45 days from the office's determination that the project is eligible for expedited review;

(d) The preparation of a single coordinated project
description form and checklist and an agreement by state and
regional agencies to reduce the burden on an applicant to
provide duplicate information to multiple agencies;

429 (e) Establishment of A process for the adoption and review 430 of any comprehensive plan amendment needed by any certified 431 project within 90 days after the submission of an application 432 for a comprehensive plan amendment. However, the memorandum of 433 agreement may not prevent affected persons as defined in s. 434 163.3184 from appealing or participating in the this expedited 435 plan amendment process and any review or appeals of decisions 436 made under this paragraph; and

437 (f) Additional incentives for an applicant who proposes a438 project that provides a net ecosystem benefit.

439

(13) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law:

440 Projects that are qualified under this section are not (b) 441 subject to interstate highway level-of-service standards adopted 442 by the Department of Transportation for concurrency purposes. 443 The memorandum of agreement specified in subsection (5) must 444 include a process by which the applicant will be assessed a fair share of the cost of mitigating the project's significant 445 traffic impacts, as defined in chapter 380 and related rules. 446 The agreement must also specify whether the significant traffic 447 448 impacts on the interstate system will be mitigated through the

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(14)

implementation of a project or payment of funds to the Department of Transportation. <u>If</u> Where funds are paid, the Department of Transportation must include in the 5-year work program transportation projects or project phases, in an amount equal to the funds received, to mitigate the traffic impacts associated with the proposed project.

455

456 Challenges to state agency action in the expedited (b) permitting process for establishment of a state-of-the-art 457 458 biomedical research institution and campus in the this state by 459 the grantee under s. 288.955 or a project identified in 460 paragraph (3)(f) are subject to the same requirements as 461 challenges brought under paragraph (a), except that, 462 notwithstanding s. 120.574, summary proceedings must be 463 conducted within 30 days after a party files the motion for 464 summary hearing, regardless of whether the parties agree to the 465 summary proceeding.

466 The office, working with the agencies that provide (15)467 input to participating in the memoranda of agreement, shall 468 review sites proposed for the location of facilities eligible 469 for the Innovation Incentive Program under s. 288.1089. Within 470 20 days after the request for the review by the office, the 471 agencies shall provide to the office a statement as to each 472 site's necessary permits under local, state, and federal law and an identification of significant permitting issues, which if 473 unresolved, may result in the denial of an agency permit or 474 475 approval or any significant delay caused by the permitting 476 process.

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477	(19) The following projects are ineligible for review	
478	under this part:	
479	(b) A project, the primary purpose of which is to:	
480	1. Effect the final disposal of solid waste, biomedical	
481	waste, or hazardous waste in this state.	
482	2. Produce electrical power, unless the production of	
483	electricity is incidental and not the primary function of the	
484	project or the electrical power is derived from a renewable	
485	energy fuel source as defined in s. 366.91(2)(d).	
486	3. Extract natural resources.	
487	4. Produce oil.	
488	5. Construct, maintain, or operate an oil, petroleum,	
489	natural gas, or sewage pipeline.	
490	Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.	
491		

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