

By Senator Soto

14-00035-14

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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.

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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, 2014, 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 which  
29      are in decline based upon historic average water quality and

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

32 (2) By July 1, 2015, each water management district shall  
33 develop a 5-year plan to restore historic average water quality  
34 and flow levels to the springs that are identified pursuant to  
35 subsection (1) and in the department's impaired water bodies  
36 rule. The plan may use or include existing plans and studies.

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

39 (4) Beginning January 1, 2015, 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, 2014.