

By Senator Perry

8-01583-18

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Florida LAKEWATCH Program;  
 3           amending s. 1004.49, F.S.; specifying that the Florida  
 4           LAKEWATCH Program resides within the School of Forest  
 5           Resources and Conservation's Fisheries and Aquatic  
 6           Sciences Program at the University of Florida;  
 7           revising the duties of the Fisheries and Aquatic  
 8           Sciences Program; authorizing the Department of  
 9           Environmental Protection to use program data under  
 10          certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

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

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 14           Section 1. Section 1004.49, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 15          read:

16           1004.49 Florida LAKEWATCH Program.—The Florida LAKEWATCH  
 17          Program is hereby created within the School of Forest Resources  
 18          and Conservation's Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program  
 19          ~~Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture~~ of the Institute of Food  
 20          and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. The  
 21          purpose of the program is to provide public education and  
 22          training with respect to the water quality of Florida's lakes.  
 23          The Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program ~~Department of~~  
 24          ~~Fisheries and Aquaculture~~ may, in implementing the LAKEWATCH  
 25          Program:

26           (1) Train, supervise, and coordinate volunteers to collect  
 27          water quality data from Florida's lakes, streams, and estuaries.

28           (2) Compile the data collected by volunteers.

29           (3) Disseminate information to the public about the

8-01583-18

20181118\_\_

30 LAKEWATCH Program.

31 (4) Provide or loan equipment to volunteers in the program.

32 (5) Perform other functions as may be necessary or  
33 beneficial in coordinating the LAKEWATCH Program.

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35 Data collected and compiled shall be used to establish trends  
36 and provide general background information and may ~~shall in no~~  
37 ~~instance~~ be used by the Department of Environmental Protection  
38 if the data collection methods meet sufficient quality assurance  
39 and quality control requirements in a regulatory proceeding.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.