HB 761 2022

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An act relating to inventories of critical wetlands; amending s. 373.036, F.S.; requiring each water management district governing board, in cooperation with local governments, to develop a list of critical wetlands for acquisition using funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; requiring the boards to consider certain criteria when including wetlands on the list; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 373.036, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (f), a new paragraph (e) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of that section is amended, to read:

373.036 Florida water plan; district water management plans.-

- DISTRICT WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS.-(2)
- (e) As part of the district water management plan, each governing board, in cooperation with local governments, shall develop a list of critical wetlands to be acquired using funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. The governing boards shall consider all of the following criteria in designating a wetland

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- 1. The ecological value of the wetland, as determined by the physical and biological components of the environmental system.
- $\underline{\text{2.}}$ The effect of the wetland on water quality and flood mitigation.
 - 3. The ecosystem restoration value of the wetland.
- 4. The inherent susceptibility of the wetland to development due to its geographical location or natural aesthetics.
 - (7) CONSOLIDATED WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT. -
- (b) The consolidated annual report shall contain the following elements, as appropriate to that water management district:
- 1. A district water management plan annual report or the annual work plan report allowed in subparagraph (2)(f)4.
- 2. The department-approved minimum flows and minimum water levels annual priority list and schedule required by s. 373.042(3).
- 3. The annual 5-year capital improvements plan required by s. 373.536(6)(a)3.
- 48 4. The alternative water supplies annual report required by s. 373.707(8)(n).
 - 5. The final annual 5-year water resource development work

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51 program required by s. 373.536(6)(a)4.

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- 6. The Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan annual report required by s. 373.199(7).
- 7. The mitigation donation annual report required by s. 373.414(1)(b)2.
- 8. Information on all projects related to water quality or water quantity as part of a 5-year work program, including:
- a. A list of all specific projects identified to implement a basin management action plan, including any projects to connect onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to central sewerage systems and convert onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to enhanced nutrient-reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, or a recovery or prevention strategy;
- b. A priority ranking for each listed project for which state funding through the water resources development work program is requested, which must be made available to the public for comment at least 30 days before submission of the consolidated annual report;
 - c. The estimated cost for each listed project;
 - d. The estimated completion date for each listed project;
- e. The source and amount of financial assistance to be made available by the department, a water management district, or other entity for each listed project; and
 - f. A quantitative estimate of each listed project's

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76 benefit to the watershed, water body, or water segment in which it is located.

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- 9. A grade for each watershed, water body, or water segment in which a project listed under subparagraph 8. is located representing the level of impairment and violations of adopted minimum flow or minimum water levels. The grading system must reflect the severity of the impairment of the watershed, water body, or water segment.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

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