

Senate Bill No. 2832

An act relating to water management district planning and reporting; directing the South Florida Water Management District to undertake a pilot project to consolidate certain plans and reports; providing a temporary new deadline in lieu of statutory deadlines for the submission of certain plans and reports of the district; requiring the district to report to the Governor and the Legislature by a certain date; providing for termination of the project; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Legislative findings.—The Legislature finds that plans and reports submitted to the Governor and Legislature regarding the status of water management district programs and the state’s water resources are necessary to ensure proper protection and management of those resources. The Legislature also finds that such plans and reports should be better coordinated and, in some cases, consolidated to allow the Governor, the Legislature, stakeholders, and the public to be better informed about the management of the state’s water resources. Finally, the Legislature finds that increased access to such information will enhance accountability and, ultimately, improve the protection of Florida’s water resources.

Section 2. Pilot project.—The South Florida Water Management District shall commence a pilot project to coordinate and, where appropriate, consolidate legislatively mandated plans and reports regarding the status of district programs and water resources within its jurisdiction. The district shall review all such plans and reports that are required by law to be annually submitted to the Governor and Legislature, and determine how to provide the same information in a more effective and efficient manner. The district shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature by February 15, 2005, the information in such annual plans and reports due after the effective date of this act through February 1, 2005. This submittal date is in lieu of any other statutory deadlines required of the district for various plans and reports through February 1, 2005. The district shall submit the information in a thorough and effective format, consolidating such plans and reports where appropriate. However, this section does not modify the requirements of sections 373.501 and 373.536(5) and (6)(a)1.-2., Florida Statutes. Unless reauthorized by subsequent legislation, this pilot project shall commence on the effective date of this act and cease on March 1, 2005.

Section 3. Report to the Governor and Legislature.—The South Florida Water Management District shall report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 15, 2005, on the outcome of its efforts to better coordinate and, where appropriate, consolidate its legislatively mandated annual plans and reports. Such report shall include any statutory changes recommended by the district to achieve better coordination and consolidation. Any recommendations regarding statutory changes shall incorporate to the greatest extent possible

suggestions by the other water management districts and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 12, 2004.