

CHAPTER 2016-85

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 561

An act relating to the organizational structure of the Department of Environmental Protection; amending s. 20.255, F.S.; establishing the Office of the Secretary within the department; authorizing the Secretary of Environmental Protection to establish offices within the office or within the department's divisions to promote the efficient and effective operation of the department; providing for the secretary to appoint a general counsel; removing the required establishment of certain offices; establishing the Division of Water Restoration Assistance within the department; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 20.255, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

20.255 Department of Environmental Protection.—There is created a Department of Environmental Protection.

(2)(a) There shall be three deputy secretaries who are ~~to be~~ appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary. The secretary may assign any deputy secretary the responsibility to supervise, coordinate, and formulate policy for any division, office, or district.

(b) The Office of the Secretary is established. The secretary may establish offices within the Office of the Secretary or within the divisions established under subsection (3) to promote the efficient and effective operation of the department.

(c) The secretary shall appoint a general counsel who is directly responsible to and serves at the pleasure of the secretary. The general counsel is responsible for all legal matters of the department. The following special offices are established and headed by managers, each of whom is to be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the secretary:

- ~~1. Office of Chief of Staff;~~
- ~~2. Office of General Counsel;~~
- ~~3. Office of Inspector General;~~
- ~~4. Office of External Affairs;~~
- ~~5. Office of Legislative Affairs;~~
- ~~6. Office of Intergovernmental Programs; and~~

~~7.— Office of Greenways and Trails.~~

~~8.— Office of Emergency Response.~~

~~(d)~~^(b) There shall be six administrative districts involved in regulatory matters of waste management, water resource management, wetlands, and air resources, which shall be headed by managers, each of whom ~~shall~~ ~~is to be~~ appointed by and ~~serves~~ ~~serve~~ at the pleasure of the secretary. Divisions of the department may have one assistant or two deputy division directors, as required to facilitate effective operation.

~~(e)~~ The ~~directors~~ ~~managers~~ of all divisions, and ~~the managers of all offices~~ ~~and specifically named in this section~~ ~~and the directors of the six administrative districts~~, are exempt from part II of chapter 110 and are included in the Senior Management Service in accordance with s. 110.205(2)(j).

(3) The following divisions of the Department of Environmental Protection are established:

(a) Division of Administrative Services.

(b) Division of Air Resource Management.

(c) Division of Water Resource Management.

(d) Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration.

(e) Division of Waste Management.

(f) Division of Recreation and Parks.

(g) Division of State Lands, the director of which is ~~to be~~ appointed by the secretary of the department, subject to confirmation by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

(h) Division of Water Restoration Assistance.

In order to ensure statewide and intradepartmental consistency, the department's divisions shall direct the district offices and bureaus on matters of interpretation and applicability of the department's rules and programs.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 24, 2016.