

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1640

SPONSOR: Senator Laurent

SUBJECT: Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund

DATE: March 16, 2000

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Gee	Voigt	NR	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	FP	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill creates the Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund to be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. It provides for the uses of funds in the trust fund and provides for review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund.

This bill creates s. 373.45952 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Senate Bill 1494 establishes a program for management of the Lake Okeechobee watershed through the phased implementation of phosphorus load reductions; construction of stormwater treatment areas, reservoir-assisted stormwater treatment areas, and other detention/treatment facilities within priority basins; comprehensive evaluation and monitoring of the water quality in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed; development of “best management practices” for non-point agricultural and non-agricultural sources within the watershed; identification of invasive exotic species and implementation of measures to protect the native flora and fauna; and an internal phosphorus load removal feasibility study and subsequent implementation of measures to reduce the internal phosphorus loads. It also provides for permitting of both structures discharging to Lake Okeechobee, as well as for water quality treatment/detention facilities included in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed.

This bill creates the Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund as the repository for funds appropriated by the Legislature and as provided for by general law, to fund the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Section 373.45952, F.S., is created to provide for the Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection.

Funds to be credited to the trust fund consist of funds appropriated annually by the Legislature and as provided for by general law. Funds may be used solely for the purposes set forth in s. 373.4595, FS., and for related purposes undertaken under ss. 373.451-373.459, F.S.

Section 2. In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Article III of the State Constitution, the Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund shall be terminated on July 1, 2004, unless terminated sooner. Before its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2), F.S.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the effective date of SB 1494, but it shall not take effect unless it is enacted by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature and unless SB _____, 2000 Regular Session, becomes a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

On page 2, line 2, the Senate bill number to be inserted should be SB 1494.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
