

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: CS/SB 1266

SPONSOR: Appropriations Committee and Senator Clary

SUBJECT: Water Management Lands Trust Fund Use

DATE: March 25, 2004      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>DeLoach</u>	<u>Hayes</u>	<u>AGG</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>
2.	<u>DeLoach</u>	<u>Coburn</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

This bill amends section 373.59, F.S., modifying the use of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The bill expands the use of the trust fund to include supplemental operational expenditures for the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District. Funding of the operational expenditures for the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water District will be allocated prior to the distributions authorized in s. 373.59 (8), F.S.

**II. Present Situation:**

The Water Management Lands Trust Fund was created in section 373.59, F.S., in the Department of Environmental Protection to provide funds to the state’s five water management districts for the purpose of land acquisition, management, maintenance, capital improvements, payment in lieu of taxes, debt service on bonds, preacquisition costs associated with land purchases, and the department’s costs to administer the fund. The major source of revenue is 4.2 percent of the documentary stamp tax. Moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund are allocated to the five districts in the following percentages: 35 percent to South Florida Water Management District, 25 percent each to Southwest Florida and St. Johns Water Management District, and 10 percent each to Suwannee River and Northwest Florida Water Management Districts.

In addition to the 10 percent distribution from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, the Northwest Florida and Suwannee River Water Management Districts receive an annual appropriation of approximately \$1 million from the General Revenue Fund to subsidize operations.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill allows the Legislature to eliminate the operational subsidy from the General Revenue Fund, and reduce \$1,374,903 in general revenue expenditures for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 by authorizing such expenditures from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. Allocation of these expenditures are authorized prior to the distributions authorized in s. 379.59 (8), Florida Statutes.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. Other Constitutional Issues:**

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:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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

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