

Section 10. Section 576.092, Florida Statutes, is

5 created to read:

6 576.092 Consumer Fertilizer Task Force.--

7 (1) The Legislature finds that:

8 (a) There is a need for better training and education  
9 regarding the proper use of consumer fertilizers.

10 (b) There should exist a mechanism to help local  
11 governments promote and encourage the proper use of  
12 fertilizers, thereby eliminating or minimizing the potential  
13 for environmental impacts.

14 (c) Local government regulation of fertilizer uses for  
15 nonagricultural applications should be based on sound science,  
16 including water quality, agronomics, and horticulture.

17 (d) There is a need for education regarding the use of  
18 consumer fertilizers.

19 (e) There is a need for improved standards regarding  
20 nonagricultural fertilizer use and application.

21 (f) While the constituents in fertilizer are naturally  
22 occurring in the environment, the improper use of fertilizer  
23 can be one of many contributors to nonpoint source pollution.

24 (g) The state's local governments are potentially  
25 subject to regulatory enforcement action by state or federal  
26 entities as a result of nonpoint source pollution caused by  
27 stormwater runoff.

28 (2)(a) There is hereby created the Consumer Fertilizer  
29 Task Force within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
30 Services for the purposes of:

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- 1           1. Assessing existing data and information regarding  
2 nutrient enrichment and surface waters due to fertilizer,  
3 assessing management strategies for reducing water quality  
4 impacts associated with fertilizer, and identifying additional  
5 research needs.
- 6           2. Developing statewide guidelines governing  
7 nonagricultural fertilizer use rates, formulations, and  
8 applications with attention to the geographic regions  
9 identified in Rule 5E-1.003, Florida Administrative Code.
- 10          3. Taking public input and testimony concerning the  
11 issues in this section.
- 12          4. Recommending methods to ensure local ordinances are  
13 based on best available data and science and to achieve  
14 uniformity among local government ordinances where possible,  
15 unless local ordinance variations are necessary to meet  
16 mandated state and federal water quality standards.
- 17          5. Developing model ordinances for municipalities and  
18 counties concerning the use of nonagricultural fertilizer.
- 19           (b)1. The task force shall consist of 13 members who  
20 are technically qualified by training, education, or  
21 experience in water quality, horticultural, or agronomic  
22 science, and who shall be appointed as follows: three members  
23 appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be  
24 a representative from the Department of Environmental  
25 Protection, one of whom shall be a representative of the  
26 environmental community, and one of whom shall be a member of  
27 the Senate; three members appointed by the Speaker of the  
28 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a  
29 representative from a water management district, one of whom  
30 shall be a representative of the University of Florida's  
31 Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, and one of whom

1 shall be a member of the House of Representatives; five  
2 members appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, one of  
3 whom shall be a representative from the Department of  
4 Agriculture and Consumer Services, one of whom shall be a  
5 representative from the Office of Agricultural Water Policy,  
6 one of whom shall be a representative from the national  
7 fertilizer industry, one of whom shall be a representative  
8 from the Florida-based fertilizer industry, and one of whom  
9 shall be a registered landscape architect; one member  
10 appointed by the Florida League of Cities, Inc.; and one  
11 member appointed by the Florida Association of Counties.

12       2. Members shall choose a chair and vice chair from  
13 the membership of the task force.

14       (3) Staffing for the task force shall be provided by  
15 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

16       (4) The task force shall review and evaluate the  
17 issues identified in paragraph (2)(a) and take public  
18 testimony. A report of the recommendations and findings of the  
19 task force, including recommendations for statutory changes,  
20 if any, shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and  
21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15,  
22 2008, and the task force shall be abolished upon the  
23 transmittal of the report.

24       Section 11. The sum of \$58,559 is appropriated for the  
25 2007-2008 fiscal year from the Licensing Trust Fund to the  
26 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the  
27 purpose of developing curriculum and administering  
28 examinations to applicants for licensure as private  
29 investigators.

30       Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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