

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to reclaimed water; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the water management districts on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water and to submit a report based upon such study; providing requirements for the report; requiring the departments to provide the public an opportunity for input and for public comment; requiring that the report be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water.—

(1) The Department of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the five water management districts, shall conduct a comprehensive study and submit a report on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water in this state.

(2) The report must:

27 (a) Identify factors that prohibit or complicate the
28 expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater,
29 and excess surface water and recommend how those factors can be
30 mitigated or eliminated.

31 (b) Identify the environmental, engineering, public
32 health, public perception, and fiscal constraints of such an
33 expansion, including utility rate structures for reclaimed
34 water.

35 (c) Identify areas in the state where traditional water
36 supply sources are limited and the use of reclaimed water,
37 stormwater, or excess surface water for irrigation or other
38 purposes is necessary.

39 (d) Recommend permit incentives, such as extending current
40 authorizations for long-term consumptive use permits for all
41 entities that substitute reclaimed water for traditional water
42 sources that become unavailable or otherwise cost prohibitive.

43 (e) Determine the feasibility, benefit, and cost estimate
44 of the infrastructure needed to construct regional storage
45 features on public or private lands for reclaimed water,
46 stormwater, and excess surface water, including the collection
47 and delivery mechanisms for beneficial uses such as agricultural
48 irrigation, power generation, public water supply, wetland
49 restoration, groundwater recharge, and waterbody base flow
50 augmentation.

51 (3) The departments shall:

52 (a) Hold a public meeting to gather input on the study

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53 design.

54 (b) Provide an opportunity for public comment before
55 submitting the report.

56 (4) The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the
57 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
58 Representatives no later than December 1, 2015.

59 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.