

## Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

### **CS/CS/CS/HB 1417 — Department of Environmental Protection**

by State Affairs Committee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee; Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; and Reps. LaMarca and Boyles (CS/CS/CS/SB 1510 by Fiscal Policy Committee; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Environment and Natural Resources Committee; and Senator Massullo)

The bill repeals provisions relating to the Environmental Regulation Commission and removes all references to it in statute.

The bill requires an applicant for certain permits related to stormwater management to incorporate site-specific and appropriate additional protections in the development and implementation of an erosion and sediment control plan for the construction of a solar facility. The operator of a solar facility or a proposed solar facility must implement all construction and operational permit requirements. Within the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the bill requires a new operational phase stormwater management system that serves a solar facility to be designed based on the 100-year, 24-hour design storm for the projected site.

The bill specifies that coastal resiliency projects qualify for public-private partnerships. It authorizes the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to encourage the private sector to invest in coastal resiliency projects. The bill directs DEP to publish biennial progress reports for coastal resiliency projects funded through public-private partnerships and to maintain an online dashboard for real-time updates on project execution.

The bill removes a requirement that owners of residential properties within the Indian River Lagoon Protection program over ten acres must connect to sewer or upgrade their onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system (septic system). The bill requires the permitting agency to notify property owners that their septic systems must be upgraded for certain applications to repair, modify, or replace a septic system.

The bill extends the due date for annual operating permits for major sources of air pollution. The bill also removes language providing that the costs to issue and administer permits shall be considered direct and indirect costs of the major stationary source air-operation permit program.

The bill ratifies DEP's revisions to the minimum flows and levels for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs within rule 62-42.300, Florida Administrative Code.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

*Vote: Senate 34-3; House 110-0*