

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2014 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Agriculture

CS/HB 47 — Spiny Lobster

by Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; and Rep. Raschein and others (CS/SB 194 by Agriculture Committee and Senator Latvala)

The bill amends s. 379.407, F.S., to provide specific enhanced penalties for any person, firm, or corporation in possession of spiny lobster during closed season or in possession of wrung spiny lobster tails while on State waters. Any exception would be granted by Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rules.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 117-0

CS/CS/SB 450 — Telephone Solicitation

by Appropriations Committee; Agriculture Committee; and Senators Clemens and Sobel

The bill revises the Florida Do Not Call Program to prohibit unsolicited text messages in addition to unsolicited telephone calls to Florida residents who have listed their residential, mobile, or paging device telephone number with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer services. The bill also prohibits a telephone solicitor from initiating text messages in addition to telephone calls to a consumer who has previously communicated he or she does not wish to receive a telephone call or text message.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 115-1

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CS/CS/SB 536 — Reclaimed Water

by Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee; Agriculture Committee; and Senator Simpson

This bill directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in coordination with the stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive study and to submit a report on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water in Florida. The bill specifies the elements the report must include. The bill directs the DEP to hold a minimum of two public meetings to gather input on the study and to accept written comments from the public before the report is submitted. Lastly, the bill requires the report to be submitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2015.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0

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CS/HB 7091 — Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

by State Affairs Committee; Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; and Rep. Pigman (CS/CS/CS/SB 1630 by Community Affairs Committee; Transportation Committee; Agriculture Committee; and Senator Montford)

The bill addresses issues relating to agriculture and certain powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department). Specifically the bill:

- Reorganizes ch. 570, F.S., the department's general authorizing statute, into five separate parts;
- Standardizes penalty language in the new part V which is cross-referenced in the various statutes enforced by the department;
- Removes obsolete language to ensure accuracy;
- Under certain conditions, allows property owners to file late for an agricultural classification for assessment purposes;
- States that lands classified as agricultural and participating in a dispersed water storage program shall continue to be classified as agricultural;
- Provides private landowners participating in a water storage program with an option to establish a baseline condition determining the extent of wetlands;
- Adds a representative of the department to the Joint Task Force on State Agency Law Enforcement Communications;
- Revises requirements for registration and distribution of discontinued pesticides;
- Updates the department's certification and licensure processes to include applying online;
- Expands the authority of the Florida Forest Service, under certain conditions, to grant leases, permits, privileges, and concessions for the use of state forest lands to include *any lands* leased by or assigned to the Florida Forest Service for management purposes;
- Authorizes the department to impose civil penalties for violations relating to private security, investigative, and repossession services;
- Removes security bond and certificate of deposit requirements for fertilizer license applicants, since the department has sufficient authority to impose fines or to revoke licensure for licensees who do not pay inspection fees;
- Adds additional criteria to determine whether commercial feed is adulterated;
- Simplifies the information required to register as a seed dealer;
- Revises food permit requirements, associated fees, and renewal procedures;
- Exempts manually operated vending stands serviced by the Department of Education's Division of Blind Services from permitting requirements;
- Authorizes the department to close a food facility if it is found to pose an immediate danger or threat to public health, safety, and welfare;
- Authorizes the department to inspect aquaculture facilities and to analyze their food samples;
- Repeals a pilot program and permit for the use of Australian pine trees as windbreaks for citrus groves; and

- Creates new requirements for qualifying as a “non-dealer” in limited sales of dressed poultry.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 112-0