

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/CS/SB 162 — Water and Wastewater Facility Operators

by Fiscal Policy Committee; Regulated Industries Committee; Environment and Natural Resources Committee; and Senator Collins

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to issue reciprocal licenses to water utility workers licensed in other jurisdictions and other license applicants who meet certain requirements. The bill directs DEP to award education and operational experience credits to license applicants who have performed comparable duties in the United States Armed Forces but who do not meet certain other requirements for a reciprocal license. The bill also provides that, during a declared state of emergency under s. 252.36, F.S., DEP:

- May issue a temporary license to applicants who otherwise meet the requirements for licensure reciprocity; and
- Must waive the application fee for a temporary operator license. DEP must also adopt rules for licensure by reciprocity.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023, unless otherwise provided.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 114-0