

By Representatives Attkisson and Machek

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to wastewater sludge; creating
3 the "Florida Wastewater Residual Reduction
4 Act"; providing for appropriate disposal and
5 treatment of wastewater sludge; providing fee
6 incentives for utilities using appropriate
7 treatment; providing an effective date.

8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
11 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida
12 Wastewater Residual Reduction Act."

13 Section 2. (1) Wastewater residual sludge from
14 utility operations and septic removal must be treated to
15 minimum level as set forth by the Department of Environmental
16 Protection before disposal as land spreading, to protect the
17 Lake Okeechobee Watershed, the waters of the state, and the
18 ecosystem south of the Lake Okeechobee area.

19 (2)(a) Private and government-owned utilities may use
20 a line item on local sewer rates for wastewater residual
21 disposals and treatment whereby this additional line item is
22 an environmental protection disposal fee above the present
23 sewer rate and not considered a part of the present sewer rate
24 to customers.

25 (b) For those utilities using wastewater residual
26 treatment facilities within the areas designated by the
27 Governor as rural areas of critical economic concern or
28 designated under the provisions set forth in section 18 of
29 chapter 92-132, Laws of Florida, the wastewater residual
30 disposals and treatment fee line item may be a fee over and
31 above present operation and disposal fees, and the

1 environmental protection disposal fee will not be reduced from
2 the present disposal fee already in the utility operational
3 budget.

4 (3) For private utilities that use the provisions of
5 this act, the environmental protection disposal fee is not
6 considered a rate increase under the rules of the Public
7 Service Commission. Utilities using this act may immediately
8 include in their sewer invoicing the new environmental
9 protection disposal fee.

10 (4) For utilities and utility authorities owned by or
11 under the exclusive control of local or regional government
12 which use the provisions of this act, the environmental
13 protection disposal fee is not considered a rate increase
14 under the rules of the Public Service Commission. Utilities
15 using this act may immediately include in their sewer
16 invoicing the new environmental protection disposal fee.

17 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
18 law.

19
20 *****

21 SENATE SUMMARY

22 Creates the "Florida Wastewater Residual Reduction Act"
23 providing for the appropriate disposal and treatment of
24 wastewater sludge within areas affecting the Lake
25 Okeechobee Watershed. Provides incentives for those
26 utilities using the appropriate treatment.
27
28
29
30
31