

By Senator Laurent

17-893-01

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