

By Senator Mitchell

4-463-01

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to water; creating the "Safe
3 Water Assurance Act"; directing the Department
4 of Environmental Protection to establish a
5 Water and Wastewater Treatment Grant Program
6 for local governments; providing standards;
7 requiring that grant criteria be adopted by
8 rule; providing funding; providing an effective
9 date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Safe Water
14 Assurance Act."15 Section 2. (1) The Department of Environmental
16 Protection, as lead agency, in conjunction with the Department
17 of Community Affairs shall establish a Water and Wastewater
18 Treatment Grant Program for local governments and shall
19 develop a priority list of local governments eligible for
20 grants under the program. In developing the priority list,
21 the department shall first consider:22 (a) Counties having a population of less than 125,000.23 (b) Municipalities having a population of less than
24 12,500.25 (2) The Department of Environmental Protection shall
26 adopt rules for awarding water and wastewater treatment grants
27 based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:28 (a) The need for water and wastewater utilities; and29 (b) Environmental issues related to septic tanks or
30 the lack of utilities, such as:31 1. Public health and safety;

- 1 2. Lack of local fiscal resources;
2 3. Consent orders or other state or federal regulatory
3 action; and
4 4. Coordination or leverage of federal funds.
5 (3) Notwithstanding section 216.3541, Florida
6 Statutes, beginning with fiscal year 2001-2002 and until
7 fiscal year 2011-2012, \$100 million shall be annually
8 deposited into the Water and Wastewater Treatment Grant
9 Program Trust Fund from the General Revenue Fund for the
10 purpose of funding the Water and Wastewater Treatment Grant
11 Program established in this section.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Directs the Department of Environmental Protection in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs to establish a Water and Wastewater Treatment Grant Program for local governments. Requires that criteria for awarding grants be adopted by rule. Provides funding for 10 years.