

## CHAMBER ACTION

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1 The Environmental Regulation Committee recommends the following:

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3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to the Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and  
7 Disposal System Compliance Grant Program; creating the  
8 program in the Department of Health; providing purposes;  
9 authorizing certain property owners in certain areas of  
10 the Wekiva basin to apply for grants for certain purposes;  
11 providing grant limitations; providing for annual  
12 adjustments of the amount of the grants; providing for the  
13 grant as a rebate of costs incurred; requiring  
14 documentation of costs; requiring the Department of Health  
15 to adopt rules to administer the grant program; requiring  
16 the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a  
17 study of sources of nitrogen input into the Wekiva River  
18 and associated springs; requiring the Department of Health  
19 to contract for an independent study of sources of  
20 nitrogen input from onsite sewage treatment and disposal  
21 systems into the Wekiva River and associated springs;  
22 requiring reports; providing report requirements;  
23 requiring the Department of Environmental Protection and

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24 Department of Health to submit copies of the reports to  
25 the Legislature; requiring the Department of Health to  
26 develop proposed rules for a model proposal applying to  
27 operation and maintenance of onsite sewage treatment and  
28 disposal systems in certain areas; specifying a rule  
29 criterion; providing appropriations; providing an  
30 effective date.

31  
32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33  
34 Section 1. Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal  
35 System Compliance Grant Program.--

36 (1) The Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System  
37 Compliance Grant Program is created within the Department of  
38 Health, to be administered by the Department of Health. The  
39 purpose of the program is to provide grants to low-income  
40 property owners in the Wekiva Study Area or the Wekiva River  
41 Protection Area using onsite sewage treatment and disposal  
42 systems to assist the property owner in complying with rules for  
43 onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems developed by the  
44 Department of Health, the Department of Environmental  
45 Protection, or the St. Johns River Water Management District to  
46 enforce compliance with onsite sewage treatment and disposal  
47 system standards.

48 (2) Any property owner in the Wekiva Study Area or the  
49 Wekiva River Protection Area having an income less than or equal  
50 to 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline who is required  
51 by rule of the Department of Health, the Department of

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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52 Environmental Protection, or the St. Johns River Water  
53 Management District to construct, reconstruct, alter, repair, or  
54 modify any new or existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal  
55 system on such property may apply to the Department of Health  
56 for a grant to assist the owner with the cost of compliance.

57 (3) The amount of the grant is limited to \$10,000 per  
58 property and shall be increased each calendar year by the change  
59 in the annual average of the "materials and components for  
60 construction" series of the producer price index, as calculated  
61 and published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau  
62 of Statistics, from the previous calendar year.

63 (4) The grant shall be in the form of a rebate to the  
64 property owner for costs incurred in complying with requirements  
65 for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. The property  
66 owner shall provide to the Department of Health in the  
67 application for a grant documentation of costs incurred in  
68 complying with requirements for such systems.

69 (5) The Department of Health shall adopt rules pursuant to  
70 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 providing forms, procedures, and  
71 requirements for applying for and disbursing grants under this  
72 section and for documenting compliance costs incurred.

73 Section 2. (1)(a) The Department of Environmental  
74 Protection shall conduct a study to determine the various  
75 sources of nitrogen input into the Wekiva River and associated  
76 springs contributing water to the river. The Department of  
77 Environmental Protection shall prepare a report recommending  
78 actions to be taken by the Department of Environmental  
79 Protection and the St. Johns Water Management District that will

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80 provide the best use of economic resources to reduce nitrogen  
81 inputs into the river and associated springs.

82 (b) The Department of Health shall contract for a study by  
83 an independent entity of sources of input of nitrogen from  
84 onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems into the Wekiva  
85 River and associated springs. The study shall measure the  
86 concentration of nitrates in the soil 10 feet and 20 feet below  
87 the drainage field of the onsite sewage treatment and disposal  
88 systems. The contract shall require the entity to submit a  
89 report to the Department of Health describing the locations of  
90 such sources and amounts contributed by such sources and  
91 containing recommendations to reduce or eliminate nitrogen  
92 inputs from such sources.

93 (c) The Department of Environmental Protection and the  
94 Department of Health shall submit copies of the reports to the  
95 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
96 Representatives before the 2007 Regular Session of the  
97 Legislature.

98 (2) The Department of Health shall develop proposed rules  
99 for a model proposal applying to operation and maintenance of  
100 onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems within the Wekiva  
101 Study Area or the Wekiva River Protection Area. At a minimum,  
102 the rules shall require each property owner in the Wekiva Study  
103 Area or the Wekiva River Protection Area having an onsite sewage  
104 treatment and disposal system to pump out the system at least  
105 once every 5 years.

106 Section 3. (1) The sum of \$ .... is appropriated from the  
107 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health for the 2006-

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108 | 2007 fiscal year, of which \$ .... shall be used by the  
 109 | Department of Health to administer the Wekiva Onsite Sewage  
 110 | Treatment and Disposal System Compliance Grant Program and \$  
 111 | .... shall be used to provide grants to applicants under the  
 112 | program.

113 | (2) (a) The sum of \$ .... is appropriated from the General  
 114 | Revenue Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection for  
 115 | the 2006-2007 fiscal year to be used by the Department of  
 116 | Environmental Protection to conduct the study required under  
 117 | paragraph (1) (a) of section 2.

118 | (b) The sum of \$ .... is appropriated from the General  
 119 | Revenue Fund to the Department of Health for the 2006-2007  
 120 | fiscal year to be used for purposes of the independent study the  
 121 | Department of Health is required to contract for under paragraph  
 122 | (1) (b) of section 2.

123 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.