

By Senator Constantine

22-1021-07

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Compliance Grant Program; creating the program in the Department of Health; providing purposes; authorizing certain property owners in certain areas of the Wekiva basin to apply for grants for certain purposes; providing grant limitations; providing for the grant as a rebate of costs incurred; requiring documentation of costs; requiring the department to adopt rules to administer the grant program; providing an effective date.

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

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

(1) The Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Compliance Grant Program is established in the Department of Health, to be administered by the department. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to low-income property owners in the Wekiva Study Area or the Wekiva River Protection Area using onsite disposal systems to assist the property owners in complying with rules for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems developed by the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Protection, or the St. Johns River Water Management District to enforce compliance with onsite sewage treatment and disposal system standards. The grant program shall become effective upon final adoption

1 of department rules and shall apply to costs incurred on or
2 after such date.

3 (2) Any property owner in the Wekiva Study Area or the
4 Wekiva River Protection Area having an income less than or
5 equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty level who is
6 required by rule of the Department of Health, the Department
7 of Environmental Protection, or the St. Johns River Water
8 Management District to alter, repair, or modify any existing
9 onsite sewage treatment and disposal system to a
10 nitrogen-reducing performance-based treatment system on such
11 property may apply to the Department of Health for a grant to
12 assist such owner with the cost of compliance.

13 (3) The amount of the grant is limited to the cost
14 differential between the replacement of a comparable existing
15 onsite sewage treatment and disposal system and that of an
16 upgraded nitrogen-reducing performance-based treatment system,
17 but may not exceed \$10,000 per property.

18 (4) The grant shall be in the form of a rebate to the
19 property owner for costs incurred in complying with
20 requirements for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.
21 The property owner shall provide to the Department of Health
22 in the grant application documentation of costs incurred in
23 complying with requirements for such system.

24 (5) The Department of Health shall adopt rules
25 providing forms, procedures, and requirements for applying for
26 and disbursing grants including bid requirements and for
27 documenting compliance costs incurred.

28 (6) The Department of Health, in coordination with the
29 Department of Environmental Protection and the St. Johns River
30 Water Management District, shall continue to evaluate, by any
31 means the department deems appropriate, the level of nitrogen

1 deposited in the Wekiva Study Area caused by onsite sewage
2 treatment and disposal systems.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
4 law.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Creates the Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal
9 System Compliance Grant Program in the Department of
10 Health. Provides purposes of the program. Provides that
11 certain property owners may apply for a grant from the
12 department to assist with the cost of compliance. Limits
13 the amount of the grant. Allows the grant to be in the
14 form of a rebate to the property owner for costs incurred
15 in compliance. Requires the department to adopt rules to
16 administer the program. Requires the department to work
17 with the Department of Environmental Protection and the
18 St. Johns River Water Management District to evaluate the
19 level of nitrogen deposited in the Wekiva Study Area
20 caused by onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.