

By Senator Constantine

22-00446-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and  
3 Disposal System Compliance Grant Program; creating the  
4 program in the Department of Health; providing purposes;  
5 authorizing low-income property owners in certain areas of  
6 the Wekiva basin to apply for grants to improve onsite  
7 sewage treatment and disposal systems; providing grant  
8 limitations; providing for the grant to be a rebate of  
9 costs incurred; requiring documentation of costs;  
10 requiring the department to adopt rules to administer the  
11 grant program; providing an effective date.

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

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

17 (1) The Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System  
18 Compliance Grant Program is established in the Department of  
19 Health and shall be administered by the department. The purpose  
20 of the program is to provide grants to low-income property owners  
21 in the Wekiva Study Area or the Wekiva River Protection Area  
22 using onsite disposal systems to assist the property owners in  
23 complying with rules for onsite sewage treatment and disposal  
24 systems developed by the Department of Health, the Department of  
25 Environmental Protection, or the St. Johns River Water Management  
26 District and to enforce compliance with standards for onsite  
27 sewage treatment and disposal systems. The grant program is  
28 effective upon final adoption of department rules and may be  
29 applied to costs incurred on or after such date.

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30       (2) Any property owner in the Wekiva Study Area or the  
31 Wekiva River Protection Area having an income less than or equal  
32 to 200 percent of the federal poverty level who is required by  
33 rule of the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental  
34 Protection, or the St. Johns River Water Management District to  
35 alter, repair, or modify any existing onsite sewage treatment and  
36 disposal system to a nitrogen-reducing performance-based  
37 treatment system on such property may apply to the Department of  
38 Health for a grant to assist the owner with the cost of  
39 compliance.

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

45       (4) The grant shall be in the form of a rebate to the  
46 property owner for costs incurred in complying with requirements  
47 for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. The property  
48 owner shall provide to the Department of Health in the grant  
49 application documentation of costs incurred in complying with  
50 requirements for the system.

51       (5) The Department of Health shall adopt rules providing  
52 forms, procedures, and requirements for applying for and  
53 disbursing grants, including bid requirements, and for  
54 documenting compliance costs incurred.

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

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59 deposited in the Wekiva Study Area by onsite sewage treatment and  
60 disposal systems.

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