

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the acquisition of a privately owned
 3 water-wastewater utility system; providing legislative
 4 findings and intent with respect to the need for the Pasco
 5 County Board of County Commissioners to acquire Aloha
 6 Utilities, Inc.; providing definitions; requiring the
 7 Department of Environmental Protection to distribute
 8 financial assistance to Pasco County for the purpose of
 9 acquiring Aloha Utilities, Inc.; requiring the county to
 10 issue bonds to fully fund the acquisition; requiring the
 11 department to report to the Governor and the Legislature
 12 by a specified date; providing an appropriation; providing
 13 an effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Program to acquire a privately owned water-
 18 wastewater utility system.--

19 (1) The Legislature finds that those portions of Pasco
 20 County which are served by Aloha Utilities, Inc., a privately
 21 owned water-wastewater utility system, are experiencing a
 22 present threat to the environment and a present threat to the
 23 health of the utility customers. In addition, the monopoly
 24 utility's lack of a working customer service program and lack of
 25 responsiveness to customer complaints has created a breakdown in
 26 trust that is irreconcilable. It is therefore the intent of the
 27 Legislature to appropriate funds to Pasco County for the purpose
 28 of acquiring Aloha Utilities, Inc.

29 (2) As used in this section, the term:

30 (a) "Pasco County" means the Pasco County Board of County
 31 Commissioners.

32 (b) "Department" means the Department of Environmental
 33 Protection.

34 (c) "Aloha Utilities, Inc.," means the privately owned
 35 water-wastewater company franchised by Pasco County to operate
 36 in certain portions of the county.

37 (3) The department shall distribute financial assistance
 38 to Pasco County in the form of an appropriation for the purpose
 39 of acquiring Aloha Utilities, Inc., at its fair market value.
 40 Pasco County shall issue bonds to fully fund the purchase of
 41 Aloha Utilities, Inc.

42 (4) By January 1, 2009, the department shall provide to
 43 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
 44 the House of Representatives a report concerning the status of
 45 the acquisition by Pasco County of Aloha Utilities, Inc.

46 Section 2. The sum of \$6 million in nonrecurring revenue
 47 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department
 48 of Environmental Protection to distribute to Pasco County for
 49 the purpose of funding the acquisition of Aloha Utilities, Inc.

50 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.