

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to onsite sewage treatment and disposal  
 3           systems; creating s. 381.00656, F.S.; establishing the  
 4           Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System  
 5           Compliance Grant Program in the Department of Health for  
 6           the purpose of providing grants to low-income property  
 7           owners contingent upon specific appropriation; specifying  
 8           eligibility and grant amounts; requiring the department to  
 9           adopt rules; directing the department, the Department of  
 10          Environmental Protection, and the St. Johns River Water  
 11          Management District to conduct specified evaluations;  
 12          providing that funding for the program is contingent upon  
 13          specific appropriation by the Legislature; providing an  
 14          effective date.

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

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 18           Section 1.   Section 381.00656, Florida Statutes, is created  
 19   to read:

20           381.00656   Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal  
 21   System Compliance Grant Program.--

22           (1)   Subject to specific appropriation as provided in  
 23   subsection (6), the Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal  
 24   System Compliance Grant Program is established in the Department  
 25   of Health and shall be administered by the department. The  
 26   purpose of the program is to provide grants to low-income  
 27   property owners in the Wekiva Study Area or the Wekiva River  
 28   Protection Area using onsite disposal systems to assist the

29 property owners in complying with rules for onsite sewage  
30 treatment and disposal systems developed by the department, the  
31 Department of Environmental Protection, or the St. Johns River  
32 Water Management District. The grant program is effective upon  
33 final adoption of department rules and may be applied to costs  
34 incurred by property owners on or after such date.

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

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

49 (4) The department shall adopt rules providing forms,  
50 procedures, and requirements for applying for and disbursing  
51 grants, including bid requirements, and for documenting  
52 compliance costs incurred.

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

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57 deposited in the Wekiva Study Area by onsite sewage treatment  
58 and disposal systems.

59 (6) Funding for the Wekiva Onsite Sewage Treatment and  
60 Disposal System Compliance Grant Program is contingent upon a  
61 specific appropriation by the Legislature.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.