

By Senator Constantine

22-00122-09

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

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

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

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

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30 onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. The grant program  
31 is effective upon final adoption of department rules and may be  
32 applied to costs incurred on or after such date.

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

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

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

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

57 (6) The Department of Health, in coordination with the  
58 Department of Environmental Protection and the St. Johns River

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59 Water Management District, shall continue to evaluate, by any  
60 means the department deems appropriate, the level of nitrogen  
61 deposited in the Wekiva Study Area by onsite sewage treatment  
62 and disposal systems.

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