

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 4121 Comprehensive Statewide Water Conservation Program

SPONSOR(S): Pilon

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1426

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee	14 Y, 0 N	Cunningham	Blalock
2) State Affairs Committee	15 Y, 0 N	Cunningham	Hamby

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill repeals an obsolete requirement for the Department of Environmental Protection to report by December 1, 2005, on the progress made in developing a statewide water conservation program.

Under current law, the Legislature finds that the social, economic, and cultural conditions of the state relating to the use of public water supply vary by service area and that public water supply utilities must have the flexibility to tailor water conservation measures to best suit their individual circumstances. Current law also provides that the Legislature encourages the use of efficient, effective, and affordable water conservation measures. Where water is provided by a public water supply utility, the legislature intends that a variety of conservation measures be made available and used to encourage efficient water use. To implement these findings, current law directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in cooperation with the water management districts (WMDs) and other stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive statewide water conservation program for public water supply that:

- Encourages utilities to implement water conservation programs that are economically efficient, effective, affordable, and appropriate;
- Allows no reduction in, and increase where possible, utility-specific water conservation effectiveness over current programs;
- Is goal-based, accountable, measurable, and implemented collaboratively with water suppliers, water users, and water management agencies;
- Includes cost and benefit data on individual water conservation practices;
- Creates a clearinghouse or inventory for water conservation programs and practices available to public water supply utilities which will provide an integrated statewide database for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative information on public water supply conservation programs and practices and their effectiveness;
- Develops a standardized water conservation planning process for utilities; and
- Develops and maintains a Florida-specific water conservation guidance document containing a menu of affordable and effective water conservation practices to assist public water supply utilities in the design and implementation of goal-based, utility-specific water conservation plans.

The DEP is required to submit a report by December 1, 2005, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate subcommittees of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the progress made in implementing the water conservation program described above. The report must include any statutory changes and funding necessary for the continued development and implementation of the program. The DEP has submitted the required report.

The bill repeals this provision in current law requiring the DEP to submit this report since it is obsolete and no longer effective.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

STORAGE NAME: h4121c.SAC

DATE: 1/19/2012

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Under s. 373.227(1), F.S., the Legislature finds that the social, economic, and cultural conditions of the state relating to the use of public water supply vary by service area and that public water supply utilities must have the flexibility to tailor water conservation measures to best suit their individual circumstances. Section 373.227(1), F.S., also provides that water is provided by a public water supply utility, the Legislature intends that a variety of conservation measures be made available and used to encourage efficient water use. To implement these findings, S. 373.227(2), F.S., directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in cooperation with the water management districts (WMDs) and other stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive statewide water conservation program for public water supply that:

- Encourages utilities to implement water conservation programs that are economically efficient, effective, affordable, and appropriate;
- Allows no reduction in, and increase where possible, utility-specific water conservation effectiveness over current programs;
- Is goal-based, accountable, measurable, and implemented collaboratively with water suppliers, water users, and water management agencies;
- Includes cost and benefit data on individual water conservation practices;
- Creates a clearinghouse or inventory for water conservation programs and practices available to public water supply utilities which will provide an integrated statewide database for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative information on public water supply conservation programs and practices and their effectiveness;
- Develops a standardized water conservation planning process for utilities; and
- Develop and maintain a Florida-specific water conservation guidance document containing a menu of affordable and effective water conservation practices to assist public water supply utilities in the design and implementation of goal-based, utility-specific water conservation plans.

Section 373.227(5), F.S., directs the DEP to submit a report by December 1, 2005, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate subcommittees of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the progress made in implementing the water conservation program described above. The report must include any statutory changes and funding necessary for the continued development and implementation of the program. The DEP has submitted the required report.

Effect of Proposed Changes

This bill repeals s. 373.227(5), F.S., requiring the DEP to submit the report described above since it is obsolete and no longer effective.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Repeals the requirement that the DEP submit a report by December 1, 2005, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate subcommittees of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the progress made in implementing the water conservation program.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate, or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.