

By the Committees on Environmental Preservation and Conservation; and Agriculture; and Senator Simpson

592-02906-14

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reclaimed water; requiring the
3 Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a
4 study in coordination with the Department of
5 Agriculture and Consumer Services and the water
6 management districts on the expansion of the
7 beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and
8 excess surface water and to submit a report based upon
9 such study; providing requirements for the report;
10 requiring the departments to provide the public an
11 opportunity for input and for public comment;
12 requiring that the report be submitted to the Governor
13 and the Legislature by a specified date; 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. Use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess
19 surface water.—

20 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
21 coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
22 Services and the five water management districts, shall conduct
23 a comprehensive study and submit a report on the expansion of
24 the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess
25 surface water in this state.

26 (2) The report must:

27 (a) Identify factors that prohibit or complicate the
28 expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater,
29 and excess surface water and recommend how those factors can be

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30 mitigated or eliminated.

31 (b) Identify measures that would lead to the efficient use
32 of reclaimed water.

33 (c) Identify the environmental, engineering, public health,
34 public perception, and fiscal constraints of such an expansion,
35 including utility rate structures for reclaimed water.

36 (d) Identify areas in the state where traditional water
37 supply sources are limited and the use of reclaimed water,
38 stormwater, or excess surface water for irrigation or other
39 purposes is necessary.

40 (e) Recommend permit incentives, such as extending current
41 authorizations for long-term consumptive use permits for all
42 entities that substitute reclaimed water for traditional water
43 sources that become unavailable or otherwise cost prohibitive.

44 (f) Determine the feasibility, benefit, and cost estimate
45 of the infrastructure needed to construct regional storage
46 features on public or private lands for reclaimed water,
47 stormwater, and excess surface water, including the collection
48 and delivery mechanisms for beneficial uses such as agricultural
49 irrigation, power generation, public water supply, wetland
50 restoration, groundwater recharge, and waterbody base flow
51 augmentation.

52 (3) The departments shall:

53 (a) Hold two public meetings, at a minimum, to gather input
54 on the study.

55 (b) Provide an opportunity for the public to submit written
56 comments before submitting the report.

57 (4) The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the
58 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of

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59 Representatives no later than December 1, 2015.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.