

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to sanitary sewer laterals; amending
 3 ss. 125.569, and 166.0481, F.S.; authorizing each
 4 county and municipality to develop specifications to
 5 repair leaking, damaged, or clogged sanitary sewer
 6 laterals on residential and commercial properties if
 7 certain criteria are met; authorizing counties and
 8 municipalities to access sanitary sewer laterals to
 9 clean, repair, and replace them for certain purposes;
 10 providing notification requirements; providing an
 11 effective date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 14

15 Section 1. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section
 16 125.569, Florida Statutes, to read:

17 125.569 Sanitary sewer lateral inspection programs for
 18 counties.—

19 (3) Each county that has established an evaluation and
 20 rehabilitation program for sanitary sewer laterals on
 21 residential and commercial properties within the county's
 22 jurisdiction under paragraph (2) (a) may develop detailed
 23 specifications and standards for repairing or replacing any
 24 leaking, damaged, deteriorated, or clogged laterals on such
 25 properties.

26 (4) If specifications and standards have been developed as
27 set forth in subsection (3), beginning July 1, 2023, a county
28 may access residential or commercial properties to clean,
29 repair, recondition, or replace the sanitary sewer laterals and
30 to reestablish a sealed sanitary sewer system as originally
31 designed for the safe and proper transfer and conveyance of
32 sewage from the respective property to the wastewater treatment
33 plant.

34 (a) Before a county accesses a residential or commercial
35 property, it must notify the property owner by mail at least 14
36 days before the start of the project of the county's intent to
37 access the property to clean, repair, recondition, or replace
38 the sanitary sewer lateral.

39 (b) The notice must:

40 1. Provide a proposed timeline and plan for the completion
41 of the sanitary sewer lateral project.

42 2. Provide an estimate of the start and completion dates.

43 3. Inform the property owner that the owner will be
44 completely indemnified and held harmless in this process and
45 will assume no liability and responsibility for accidents or
46 problems that may occur during the project.

47 4. State that the county, by way of the contractor
48 procured to perform the work, will restore the property to the
49 prework condition or better and shall incur any and all costs
50 associated with the sanitary sewer lateral project.

51 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section
52 166.0481, Florida Statutes, to read:

53 166.0481 Sanitary sewer lateral inspection programs for
54 municipalities.—

55 (3) Each municipality that has established an evaluation
56 and rehabilitation program for sanitary sewer laterals on
57 residential and commercial properties within the municipality's
58 jurisdiction under paragraph (2)(a) may develop detailed
59 specifications and standards for repairing or replacing any
60 leaking, damaged, deteriorated, or clogged laterals on such
61 properties.

62 (4) If specifications and standards have been developed as
63 set forth in subsection (3), beginning July 1, 2023, a
64 municipality may access residential or commercial properties to
65 clean, repair, recondition, or replace the sanitary sewer
66 laterals and to reestablish the sealed sanitary sewer system as
67 originally designed for the safe and proper transfer and
68 conveyance of sewage from the respective property to the
69 wastewater treatment plant.

70 (a) Before a municipality accesses a residential or
71 commercial property, it must notify the property owner by mail
72 at least 14 days before the start of the project of the
73 municipality's intent to access the property to clean, repair,
74 recondition, or replace the sanitary sewer lateral.

75 (b) The notice must:

76 1. Provide a proposed timeline and plan for the completion
77 of the sanitary sewer lateral project.

78 2. Provide an estimate of the start and completion dates.

79 3. Inform the property owner that the owner will be
80 completely indemnified and held harmless in this process and
81 will assume no liability and responsibility for accidents or
82 problems that occur during the project.

83 4. State that the municipality, by way of the contractor
84 procured to perform the work, will restore the property to the
85 prework condition or better and shall incur any and all costs
86 associated with the sanitary sewer lateral project.

87 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.