

26 403.0673 Wastewater grant program.—A wastewater grant
 27 program is established within the Department of Environmental
 28 Protection.

29 (1) (a) Subject to the appropriation ~~of funds by the~~
 30 ~~Legislature~~, the department may provide grants for the following
 31 projects within a basin management action plan, an alternative
 32 restoration plan adopted by final order, or a rural area of
 33 opportunity under s. 288.0656 which will individually or
 34 collectively reduce excess nutrient pollution:

35 1. (a) Projects to retrofit onsite sewage treatment and
 36 disposal systems to upgrade such systems to enhanced nutrient-
 37 reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.

38 2. (b) Projects to construct, upgrade, or expand facilities
 39 to provide advanced waste treatment, as defined in s.
 40 403.086(4).

41 3. (e) Projects to connect onsite sewage treatment and
 42 disposal systems to central sewer facilities.

43 (b) (2) ~~In allocating such funds,~~ Priority must be given to
 44 projects that subsidize the connection of onsite sewage
 45 treatment and disposal systems to wastewater treatment
 46 facilities.

47 1. First priority must be given to subsidize the
 48 connection of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to
 49 existing infrastructure.

50 2. Second priority must be given to any expansion of a

51 collection or transmission system that promotes efficiency by
52 planning the installation of wastewater transmission facilities
53 to be constructed concurrently with other construction projects
54 occurring within or along a transportation facility right-of-
55 way.

56 3. Third priority must be given to all other connections
57 of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to wastewater
58 treatment facilities.

59 (c) The department shall consider the estimated reduction
60 in nutrient load per project; project readiness; the cost-
61 effectiveness of the project; the overall environmental benefit
62 of a project; the location of a project; the availability of
63 local matching funds; and projected water savings or quantity
64 improvements associated with a project.

65 (2) Subject to the appropriation, the department may
66 provide grants for projects that convert wastewater residuals
67 into Class A or Class AA biosolids. Projects must be prioritized
68 by the cost-effectiveness and overall environmental benefit of
69 the project.

70 (3) Each grant for a project described in paragraoh (1) (a)
71 ~~subsection (1)~~ must require a minimum of a 50-percent local
72 match of funds. However, the department may, at its discretion,
73 waive, in whole or in part, this consideration of the local
74 contribution for proposed projects within an area designated as
75 a rural area of opportunity under s. 288.0656.

76 (4) The department shall coordinate with each water
 77 management district, as necessary, to identify grant recipients
 78 in each district.

79 (5) Beginning January 1, 2021, and each January 1
 80 thereafter, the department shall submit a report regarding the
 81 projects funded pursuant to this section to the Governor, the
 82 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
 83 Representatives.

84 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 403.0855,
 85 Florida Statutes, to read:

86 403.0855 Biosolids management.—

87 (7)(a) The department may not authorize land application
 88 site permits for Class B biosolids within the subwatershed of a
 89 waterbody that is designated as impaired for nitrogen or
 90 phosphorus or within any upstream subwatershed hydrologically
 91 connected to a waterbody that is designated as impaired for
 92 nitrogen or phosphorus unless the applicant can affirmatively
 93 demonstrate that the phosphorus and nitrogen in the biosolids
 94 will not increase nutrient loadings in the impaired
 95 subwatershed. The demonstration must be based on achieving a net
 96 balance between nutrient imports relative to exports on the
 97 permitted application site. Exports may only include nutrients
 98 removed from the subwatershed through products generated on the
 99 permitted application site.

100 (b) New or renewed land application site permits for Class

101 B biosolids within the subwatershed of a waterbody designated as
 102 impaired for nitrogen or phosphorus or within any upstream
 103 subwatershed hydrologically connected to a waterbody that is
 104 designated as impaired for nitrogen or phosphorus that are
 105 issued after July 1, 2023, must meet the demonstration
 106 requirements in paragraph (a) by July 1, 2024.

107 (c) All land application site permits for Class B
 108 biosolids within the subwatershed of a waterbody designated as
 109 impaired for nitrogen or phosphorus or within any upstream
 110 subwatershed hydrologically connected to a waterbody that is
 111 designated as impaired for nitrogen or phosphorus must meet the
 112 demonstration requirements in paragraph (a) by July 1, 2025.

113 (d) Beginning August 1, 2023, and each August 1
 114 thereafter, the department shall publish maps designating the
 115 subwatersheds of impaired waterbodies subject to this
 116 subsection.

117 Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of
 118 section 403.1835, Florida Statutes, to read:

119 403.1835 Water pollution control financial assistance.—

120 (3) The department may provide financial assistance
 121 through any program authorized under 33 U.S.C. s. 1383, as
 122 amended, including, but not limited to, making grants and loans,
 123 providing loan guarantees, purchasing loan insurance or other
 124 credit enhancements, and buying or refinancing local debt. This
 125 financial assistance must be administered in accordance with

HB 1405

2023

126 | this section and applicable federal authorities.

127 | (e) The department shall administer financial assistance
128 | so that at least 15 percent of the funding made available each
129 | year under this section is reserved for projects that convert
130 | wastewater residuals to Class A or Class AA biosolids during the
131 | year it is reserved.

132 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.