

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to biosolids; creating s. 403.0674,
 3 F.S.; establishing a biosolids grant program within
 4 the Department of Environmental Protection;
 5 authorizing the department, subject to legislative
 6 appropriation, to provide grants to counties and
 7 municipalities for certain wastewater conversion
 8 projects; providing requirements for the
 9 prioritization and funding of such projects;
 10 authorizing the department to waive the funding match
 11 requirement for specified projects; amending s.
 12 403.0855, F.S.; prohibiting the department from
 13 authorizing land application site permits for Class B
 14 biosolids within subwatersheds of certain impaired
 15 waterbodies and waterbody segments unless applicants
 16 can demonstrate that such biosolids meet certain
 17 requirements; requiring the department to annually
 18 publish certain maps; requiring land application site
 19 permits for Class B biosolids to meet certain
 20 requirements by specified dates; providing an
 21 effective date.

22
 23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 25 Section 1. Section 403.0674, Florida Statutes, is created

26 | to read:

27 | 403.0674 Biosolids grant program.—A biosolids grant
 28 | program is established within the department.

29 | (1) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the
 30 | Legislature, the department may provide grants to counties and
 31 | municipalities in this state to support projects to construct,
 32 | upgrade, expand, or retrofit domestic facilities that convert
 33 | wastewater residuals to Class AA biosolids. An applicant for a
 34 | biosolids grant must be a county or municipal governmental
 35 | entity; however, applicants are encouraged to form public-
 36 | private partnerships with private utilities and firms.

37 | (2) In allocating grant funds, the department shall
 38 | prioritize projects by considering the economic and market
 39 | feasibility of each project, as well as the environmental
 40 | benefit that a project may provide.

41 | (a) To evaluate the economic and market feasibility of a
 42 | project, the department shall review a detailed cost-benefit
 43 | analysis for the project which includes the overall economic
 44 | impact and current and future market potential of the project,
 45 | including current or prospective buyers or users of the Class AA
 46 | biosolids of the project.

47 | (b) To evaluate the environmental benefit of a project,
 48 | the department shall review an analysis of how the Class AA
 49 | biosolids of the project are projected to minimize the migration
 50 | of nutrients and other pollutants that degrade water quality.

51 (3) The department shall administer the grant program so
52 that, of the funds made available each year under this section:

53 (a) At least 33 percent is reserved for projects that
54 convert wastewater residuals into composted Class AA biosolids
55 that meet the requirements of the United States Composting
56 Council Seal of Testing Assurance Program as being fully
57 stabilized.

58 (b) At least 33 percent is reserved for projects that
59 convert wastewater residuals into Class AA biosolids and a
60 solution of ammonia nitrogen, a valuable alternative to
61 synthetic nitrogen fertilizers.

62 (c) At least 10 percent is reserved for projects within an
63 area designated as a rural area of opportunity under s.
64 288.0656.

65 (4) If the department does not receive sufficient
66 applications for projects described in subsection (3), the
67 department may reallocate the reserved funds to other projects
68 prioritized by the department pursuant to subsection (2).

69 (5)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the department
70 shall require that each biosolids grant has a minimum of a 50
71 percent funding match from local, state, federal, or private
72 funds.

73 (b) The department may waive, in whole or in part, the
74 funding match requirement in paragraph (a) for proposed projects
75 within an area designated as a rural area of opportunity under

76 s. 288.0656.

77 Section 2. Subsections (7) and (8) are added to section
78 403.0855, Florida Statutes, to read:

79 403.0855 Biosolids management.—

80 (7) The department may not authorize a land application
81 site permit for Class B biosolids within the subwatershed of a
82 waterbody or waterbody segment listed as impaired for nitrogen
83 or phosphorus pursuant to s. 403.067 or within an adjoining
84 upstream subwatershed containing surface waters that flow to a
85 waterbody listed as impaired for nitrogen or phosphorus pursuant
86 to s. 403.067 unless the applicant affirmatively demonstrates
87 that the phosphorus and nitrogen in such biosolids will not add
88 to the nutrient load in the impaired subwatershed. This
89 demonstration must be based on achieving a net balance between
90 nutrient imports relative to exports on the permitted land
91 application site. Exports may only include nutrients removed
92 from the subwatershed through products generated on the
93 permitted land application site. Beginning November 1, 2023, and
94 each November 1 thereafter, the department shall publish updated
95 maps designating the subwatersheds of waterbodies protected
96 under this subsection.

97 (8) New or renewed land application site permits for Class
98 B biosolids issued after November 1, 2023, must meet the
99 requirements of subsection (7) by July 1, 2024. All land
100 application site permits for Class B biosolids must meet the

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101 | requirements of subsection (7) by July 1, 2025.

102 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.