

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1405

2023 Legislature

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 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, special
 7 districts, and municipalities for certain wastewater
 8 conversion projects; providing eligibility,
 9 prioritization, and funding requirements; authorizing
 10 the department to waive the funding match requirement
 11 for specified projects; requiring the department to
 12 develop specified annual reporting requirements for
 13 counties, special districts, and municipalities
 14 awarded such grants; providing an 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. Section 403.0674, Florida Statutes, is created
 19 to read:

20 403.0674 Biosolids grant program.—A biosolids grant
 21 program is established within the department.

22 (1) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the
 23 Legislature, the department may provide grants to counties,
 24 special districts, and municipalities in this state to support
 25 projects that:

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1405

2023 Legislature

26 (a) Evaluate and implement innovative technologies and
 27 solutions for the disposal of biosolids; or

28 (b) Construct, upgrade, expand, or retrofit domestic
 29 facilities that convert wastewater residuals to Class AA
 30 biosolids, nonfertilizer uses or disposal methods, or
 31 alternatives to synthetic fertilizers.

32 (2) An applicant for a biosolids grant must be a county,
 33 special district, or municipality; however, applicants are
 34 encouraged to form public-private partnerships with private
 35 utilities and firms.

36 (3) Projects eligible for funding under this section may
 37 include, but are not limited to, projects that:

38 (a) Reduce the amount of nutrients in biosolids.

39 (b) Reduce the amount of emerging contaminants in
 40 biosolids.

41 (c) Provide alternatives to the land application or
 42 landfilling of biosolids as a method of disposal.

43 (4) In allocating grant funds, the department shall
 44 prioritize projects by considering the environmental benefit
 45 that a project may provide. To evaluate the environmental
 46 benefit of a project, the department shall review an analysis of
 47 how the project's conversion of wastewater residuals to Class AA
 48 biosolids, nonfertilizer uses or disposal methods, alternatives
 49 to synthetic fertilizers derived from wastewater residuals, or
 50 innovative technologies and solutions for the disposal of

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1405

2023 Legislature

51 biosolids are projected to minimize the impact of nutrients and
52 other pollutants on water quality and the environment.

53 (5) The department shall administer the grant program so
54 that at least 10 percent of the funds made available each year
55 under this section are reserved for projects within an area
56 designated as a rural area of opportunity under s. 288.0656. If
57 the department does not receive sufficient applications for
58 projects within an area designated as a rural area of
59 opportunity, the department may reallocate the reserved funds to
60 other projects prioritized by the department pursuant to
61 subsection (4).

62 (6)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the department
63 shall require that each biosolids grant has a minimum of a 50
64 percent funding match from local, state, federal, or private
65 funds.

66 (b) The department may waive, in whole or in part, the
67 funding match requirement in paragraph (a) for proposed projects
68 within an area designated as a rural area of opportunity under
69 s. 288.0656.

70 (7) The department shall develop annual reporting
71 requirements for each county, special district, or municipality
72 awarded a grant under this section which must include the
73 phosphorous and nitrogen content, the type, and the amount of
74 each grant-funded product derived from wastewater residuals and
75 the buyers and users of such products.

ENROLLED

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2023 Legislature

76 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023. |