

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00542-23

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to sanitary sewer lateral inspection  
3       programs; amending ss. 125.569 and 166.0481, F.S.;  
4       defining the term "continuous monolithic pipe system";  
5       authorizing counties and municipalities, respectively,  
6       to access sanitary sewer laterals within their  
7       jurisdictions for specified purposes; requiring  
8       counties and municipalities to notify private property  
9       owners within a specified timeframe if the county or  
10      municipality intends to access the owner's sanitary  
11      sewer lateral; specifying requirements for such  
12      notification; providing that counties and  
13      municipalities that establish evaluation and  
14      rehabilitation programs are responsible for all work  
15      done on private property; requiring counties and  
16      municipalities to ensure property is restored to pre-  
17      work condition; specifying requirements for counties  
18      and municipalities repair work; requiring counties and  
19      municipalities that establish programs to consider  
20      economical methods for the counties and  
21      municipalities, rather than the property owners, to  
22      complete such work; authorizing a program established  
23      by a county or a municipality to evaluate and  
24      rehabilitate sanitary sewer laterals on residential  
25      and commercial properties to use state or local funds  
26      allocated for environmental preservation or the  
27      protection of water quality; providing that counties  
28      and municipalities may establish and implement  
29      alternative evaluation and rehabilitation programs to

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30 identify and reduce extraneous flow from leaking  
31 sanitary sewer laterals; providing an effective date.

32  
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34  
35 Section 1. Section 125.569, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
36 read:

37 125.569 County sanitary sewer lateral inspections  
38 ~~inspection programs for counties.~~

39 (1) As used in this section, the term:

40 (a) "Continuous monolithic pipe system" means a pipe system  
41 without any joints or seams, including all points where the pipe  
42 connects to the structure, mainline, and cleanout.

43 (b) "Sanitary sewer lateral" means a privately owned  
44 pipeline connecting a property to the main sewer line which is  
45 maintained and repaired by the property owner.

46 (2) A county may access any sanitary sewer lateral within  
47 its jurisdiction to investigate, clean, repair, recondition, or  
48 replace the sanitary sewer lateral.

49 (3) By July 1, 2022, Each county may ~~is encouraged to~~  
50 establish an evaluation and rehabilitation program for sanitary  
51 sewer laterals on residential and commercial properties within  
52 the county's jurisdiction to identify and reduce extraneous flow  
53 from leaking sanitary sewer laterals. At a minimum, the program  
54 may do all of the following:

55 (a) Establish a system to identify defective, damaged, or  
56 deteriorated sanitary sewer laterals on residential and  
57 commercial properties within the jurisdiction of the county. If  
58 a county identifies a defective, damaged, or deteriorated

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59 sanitary sewer lateral and initiates a program to eliminate  
60 extraneous flow, the county:

61 1. Must notify the property owner of the issue by certified  
62 mail, return receipt requested. The notice must specify that  
63 within 14 days after receiving the notice, the county intends to  
64 access the owner's property to address the defective, damaged,  
65 or deteriorated sanitary sewer lateral. The notice must identify  
66 the issue, inform the property owner that he or she will be  
67 indemnified and held harmless in the repair process, and provide  
68 a proposed timeline and plan for the duration of the project,  
69 including start and completion dates.

70 2. Is responsible for any repair work done on the private  
71 property. If any disruption of the property is necessary to  
72 access the sanitary sewer lateral, the county must ensure that  
73 the property is restored to at least its pre-work condition  
74 after the repair is complete. Any repair work done to a sanitary  
75 sewer lateral must meet all of the following requirements:

76 a. Provide one continuous monolithic pipe system. The  
77 connections for the structure, mainline, and cleanout must be  
78 installed and integrated into the continuous monolithic pipe  
79 system by a Florida-licensed plumber.

80 b. Be inspected using a lateral launch or similar CCTV  
81 camera system operated by a Pipeline Assessment Certification  
82 Program (PACP)- and Lateral Assessment Certification Program  
83 (LACP)-certified camera operator. The contractor must produce  
84 and provide the county with a PACP- and LACP-certified report  
85 describing the conditions in the continuous monolithic pipe  
86 system and the respective connections to the main sewer pipe and  
87 the structure.

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88 (b) Consider economical methods for the county ~~a property~~  
89 ~~owner~~ to repair or replace a defective, damaged, or deteriorated  
90 sanitary sewer lateral.

91 (c) Establish and maintain a publicly accessible database  
92 to store information concerning properties where a defective,  
93 damaged, or deteriorated sanitary sewer lateral has been  
94 identified. For each property, the database must include, but is  
95 not limited to, the address of the property, the names of any  
96 persons the county notified concerning the faulty sanitary sewer  
97 lateral, and the date and method of such notification.

98 (d) Use state or local funds allocated for the purpose of  
99 environmental preservation or the protection of water quality.

100 (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), a county may elect to  
101 establish and implement an alternative evaluation and  
102 rehabilitation program to identify and reduce extraneous flow  
103 from leaking sanitary sewer laterals.

104 Section 2. Section 166.0481, Florida Statutes, is amended  
105 to read:

106 166.0481 Municipal sanitary sewer lateral inspections  
107 ~~inspection programs for municipalities.~~

108 (1) As used in this section, the term:

109 (a) "Continuous monolithic pipe system" means a pipe system  
110 without any joints or seams, including all points where the pipe  
111 connects to the structure, mainline, and cleanout.

112 (b) "Sanitary sewer lateral" means a privately owned  
113 pipeline connecting a property to the main sewer line which is  
114 maintained and repaired by the property owner.

115 (2) A municipality may access any sanitary sewer lateral  
116 within its jurisdiction to investigate, clean, repair,

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117 recondition, or replace the sanitary sewer lateral.

118 (3) ~~By July 1, 2022,~~ Each municipality may ~~is encouraged to~~  
119 establish an evaluation and rehabilitation program for sanitary  
120 sewer laterals on residential and commercial properties within  
121 the municipality's jurisdiction to identify and reduce  
122 extraneous flow from leaking sanitary sewer laterals. At a  
123 minimum, the program may do all of the following:

124 (a) Establish a system to identify defective, damaged, or  
125 deteriorated sanitary sewer laterals on residential and  
126 commercial properties within the jurisdiction of the  
127 municipality. If a municipality identifies a defective, damaged,  
128 or deteriorated sanitary sewer lateral and initiates a program  
129 to eliminate extraneous flow, the municipality:

130 1. Must notify the property owner of the issue by certified  
131 mail, return receipt requested. The notice must specify that  
132 within 14 days after receiving the notice, the municipality  
133 intends to access the owner's property to address the defective,  
134 damaged, or deteriorated sanitary sewer lateral. The notice must  
135 identify the issue, inform the property owner that he or she  
136 will be indemnified and held harmless in the repair process, and  
137 provide a proposed timeline and plan for the duration of the  
138 project, including start and completion dates.

139 2. Is responsible for any repair work done on the private  
140 property. If any disruption of the property is necessary to  
141 access the sanitary sewer lateral, the municipality must ensure  
142 that the property is restored to at least its pre-work condition  
143 after the repair is complete. Any repair work done to a sanitary  
144 sewer lateral must meet all of the following requirements:

145 a. Provide one continuous monolithic pipe system. The

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146 connections for the structure, mainline, and cleanout must be  
147 installed and integrated into the continuous monolithic pipe  
148 system by a Florida-licensed plumber.

149 b. Be inspected using a lateral launch or similar CCTV  
150 camera system operated by a Pipeline Assessment Certification  
151 Program (PACP)- and Lateral Assessment Certification Program  
152 (LACP)-certified camera operator. The contractor must produce  
153 and provide the county with a PACP- and LACP-certified report  
154 describing the conditions in the continuous monolithic pipe  
155 system and the respective connections to the main sewer pipe and  
156 the structure.

157 (b) Consider economical methods for the municipality a  
158 ~~property owner~~ to repair or replace a defective, damaged, or  
159 deteriorated sanitary sewer lateral.

160 (c) Establish and maintain a publicly accessible database  
161 to store information concerning properties where a defective,  
162 damaged, or deteriorated sanitary sewer lateral has been  
163 identified. For each property, the database must include, but is  
164 not limited to, the address of the property, the names of any  
165 persons the municipality notified concerning the faulty sanitary  
166 sewer lateral, and the date and method of such notification.

167 (d) Use state or local funds allocated for the purpose of  
168 environmental preservation or the protection of water quality.

169 (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), a municipality may  
170 elect to establish and implement an alternative evaluation and  
171 rehabilitation program to identify and reduce extraneous flow  
172 from leaking sanitary sewer laterals.

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