

By Senator Brodeur

10-01091-23

2023880\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to biosolids; amending s. 403.0673,  
3       F.S.; authorizing the Department of Environmental  
4       Protection, subject to appropriation, to provide  
5       grants within the wastewater grant program for  
6       projects that convert wastewater residuals to  
7       biosolids; providing for the prioritization of such  
8       projects; amending s. 403.0855, F.S.; prohibiting the  
9       department from authorizing land application site  
10      permits for Class B biosolids unless a certain  
11      demonstration can be made; requiring the department to  
12      publish and annually update maps of protected  
13      subwatersheds; requiring land application site permits  
14      to meet certain requirements by specified dates;  
15      amending s. 403.1835, F.S.; requiring that department  
16      water pollution control financial assistance be  
17      administered to provide a specified percentage of  
18      available funding to projects that convert wastewater  
19      residuals to biosolids; providing an effective date.

20  
21       WHEREAS, the Legislature encourages the highest levels of  
22      treatment, quality, and use for biosolids, and

23       WHEREAS, the Legislature encourages the beneficial use of  
24      biosolids in a manner that will foster public acceptance, as  
25      well as innovative and alternative uses for biosolids, NOW,  
26      THEREFORE,

27  
28      Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
29

10-01091-23

2023880\_\_

30 Section 1. Present subsections (4) and (5) of section  
31 403.0673, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)  
32 and (6), respectively, a new subsection (4) is added to that  
33 section, and subsection (2) of that section is amended, to read:

34 403.0673 Wastewater grant program.—A wastewater grant  
35 program is established within the Department of Environmental  
36 Protection.

37 (2) In allocating ~~such~~ funds pursuant to subsection (1),  
38 priority must be given to projects that subsidize the connection  
39 of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to wastewater  
40 treatment facilities. First priority must be given to subsidize  
41 the connection of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems  
42 to existing infrastructure. Second priority must be given to any  
43 expansion of a collection or transmission system that promotes  
44 efficiency by planning the installation of wastewater  
45 transmission facilities to be constructed concurrently with  
46 other construction projects occurring within or along a  
47 transportation facility right-of-way. Third priority must be  
48 given to all other connections of onsite sewage treatment and  
49 disposal systems to wastewater treatment facilities. The  
50 department shall consider the estimated reduction in nutrient  
51 load per project; project readiness; the cost-effectiveness of  
52 the project; the overall environmental benefit of a project; the  
53 location of a project; the availability of local matching funds;  
54 and projected water savings or quantity improvements associated  
55 with a project.

56 (4) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
57 Legislature, the department may provide grants throughout this  
58 state for projects that convert wastewater residuals to class A

10-01091-23

2023880\_\_

59 and class AA biosolids. In allocating such grants, the  
60 department shall prioritize projects by considering the cost-  
61 effectiveness of a project and the overall environmental benefit  
62 of a project.

63 Section 2. Subsections (7) and (8) are added to section  
64 403.0855, Florida Statutes, to read:

65 403.0855 Biosolids management.—

66 (7) The department may not authorize a land application  
67 site permit for a Class B biosolid within the subwatershed of a  
68 waterbody designated as impaired for either nitrogen or  
69 phosphorus or within an adjoining upstream subwatershed  
70 containing surface waters that flow to a waterbody designated as  
71 impaired for either nitrogen or phosphorus unless the applicant  
72 affirmatively demonstrates that the phosphorus and nitrogen in  
73 the biosolids will not add to the nutrient load in the impaired  
74 subwatershed. This demonstration must be based on achieving a  
75 net balance between nutrient imports relative to exports on the  
76 permitted land application site. Exports may include only  
77 nutrients removed from the subwatershed through products  
78 generated on the permitted land application site. Beginning  
79 August 1, 2023, and each August 1 thereafter, the department  
80 shall publish updated maps designating the subwatersheds of  
81 waterbodies protected under this subsection.

82 (8) New or renewed Class B biosolid land application site  
83 permits issued after July 1, 2023, must meet the requirements of  
84 this section by July 1, 2024. All permits for biosolid land  
85 application sites must meet the requirements of this section by  
86 July 1, 2025.

87 Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of

10-01091-23

2023880\_\_

88 section 403.1835, Florida Statutes, to read:

89 403.1835 Water pollution control financial assistance.—

90 (3) The department may provide financial assistance through  
91 any program authorized under 33 U.S.C. s. 1383, as amended,  
92 including, but not limited to, making grants and loans,  
93 providing loan guarantees, purchasing loan insurance or other  
94 credit enhancements, and buying or refinancing local debt. This  
95 financial assistance must be administered in accordance with  
96 this section and applicable federal authorities.

97 (e) The department shall administer financial assistance so  
98 that at least 15 percent of the funding made available each year  
99 under this section is reserved for projects that convert  
100 wastewater residuals to Class A and Class AA biosolids during  
101 the year such funding is reserved.

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