

By Senator Berman

26-00898B-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to advanced wastewater treatment;  
3       providing legislative findings; requiring the  
4       Department of Environmental Protection, in  
5       consultation with the water management districts and  
6       sewage disposal facilities, to submit to the Governor  
7       and Legislature, by specified dates, reports on  
8       certain permitted sewage disposal facilities in this  
9       state, a priority ranking process for implementing  
10      advanced wastewater treatment upgrades at such  
11      facilities, and the implementation status of such  
12      upgrades; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16       Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the discharge of  
17 inadequately treated wastewater and aging sewage disposal  
18 facilities compromise the quality of the environment, including  
19 freshwater, brackish water, and nearshore and offshore salt  
20 waters, and threaten the quality of life and local economies in  
21 this state that depend on those resources. The Legislature also  
22 finds that the only practical and cost-effective way to  
23 fundamentally improve wastewater management is to require  
24 advanced wastewater treatment, or better, at all sewage disposal  
25 facilities with a permitted capacity of greater than 1 million  
26 gallons per day in this state.

27       (2) In order to prioritize the upgrade of sewage disposal  
28 facilities by December 31, 2024, the Department of Environmental  
29 Protection, in consultation with the water management districts

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30 and wastewater facilities, shall submit to the Governor, the  
31 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
32 Representatives a report detailing all of the following for all  
33 sewage disposal facilities with a permitted capacity of greater  
34 than 1 million gallons per day in this state:

35 (a) Year of construction for the facility and any  
36 maintenance or upgrades.

37 (b) Total permitted volume of water treated daily.

38 (c) Actual permitted volume of water treated daily over the  
39 most recent 1-year and 5-year averages.

40 (d) Current level of treatment, including concentrations  
41 for each of the following:

42 1. Biochemical oxygen demand.

43 2. Suspended solids.

44 3. Total nitrogen.

45 4. Total phosphorus.

46 5. 1,4-dioxane.

47 6. Perfluorooctanoic acid.

48 7. Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid.

49 8. Molybdenum.

50 9. Other contaminants of emerging concern as determined by  
51 the department.

52 (e) Estimated total pollutant loading based on permitted  
53 volume and concentrations.

54 (f) Disposal methods and the volume discharged to any  
55 receiving waterbodies, if applicable, pursuant to s.  
56 403.064(17), Florida Statutes.

57 (g) Impairment status of any receiving waterbodies within  
58 the watershed.

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59 (h) Implementation status of total maximum daily loads and  
60 basin management action plans and recommended reductions for  
61 load allocations and wasteload allocations for pollutants of  
62 concern.

63 (i) Total volume and concentration of any permitted and  
64 nonpermitted wastewater spills since 2010.

65 (3) By December 31, 2025, the department, in consultation  
66 with the water management districts and sewage disposal  
67 facilities, shall submit to the Governor, the President of the  
68 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report  
69 outlining a priority ranking process to upgrade all sewage  
70 disposal facilities in this state to advanced wastewater  
71 treatment by 2035, based on all of the following:

72 (a) Overall environmental benefit of each project based on:

73 1. Water quality in receiving waterbodies, including  
74 impairment status;

75 2. Severity and duration of documented algal blooms;

76 3. Loss of submerged vegetation;

77 4. Death of fish and wildlife;

78 5. Public health advisories;

79 6. Quantity and concentration of permitted and nonpermitted  
80 spills; and

81 7. Risk of failure.

82 (b) Estimated reduction in nutrient and pollutant loads  
83 with advanced wastewater treatment.

84 (c) An explanation of additional projects necessary to meet  
85 any adopted total maximum daily loads and basin management  
86 action plans if upgrading to advanced treatment is not  
87 sufficient.

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88 (d) Cost-effectiveness, as determined by a planning-level  
89 cost estimate.

90 (e) Potential financial assistance available, including the  
91 water quality improvement grant program under s. 403.0673,  
92 Florida Statutes, and availability of local matching funds.

93 (f) Project readiness and the estimated date of completion.

94 (4) By June 30, 2026, the department, in consultation with  
95 the water management districts and sewage disposal facilities,  
96 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
97 the Speaker of the House of Representatives a progress report on  
98 the status of any upgrades undertaken pursuant to the priority  
99 ranking process established under subsection (3) for each sewage  
100 disposal facility with a permitted capacity of greater than 1  
101 million gallons per day in this state. The report must include a  
102 list of the sewage disposal facilities with a permitted capacity  
103 of greater than 1 million gallons per day required to upgrade to  
104 advanced wastewater treatment, the preliminary cost estimates  
105 for the upgrades, a projected timeline of the dates by which the  
106 upgrades will begin and be completed, and the date by which  
107 operations of the upgraded sewage disposal facilities will  
108 begin.

109 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.