

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [CS/HR 661](#)

TITLE: One Water Approaches to Water Resource Management

SPONSOR(S): Albert

COMPANION BILL: [SR 1846](#) (Truenow)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Natural Resources & Disasters](#)

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[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The resolution encourages One Water approaches to water resource management and the use of collaborative, integrated, resilience systems approaches to planning for and funding water resource projects.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The resolution specifies that the House of Representatives encourages [One Water approaches](#) to water resource management and the use of collaborative, integrated, resilience systems approaches to planning for and funding water resource projects.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

One Water Approaches

The one water approach aims to integrate green infrastructure into communities for stormwater management, create an integrated approach across watersheds for water resources, and facilitate communication and partnership between rural and urban communities.¹ Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) encourages and highlights the benefits of using recycled water as part of its one water initiative.² The initiative is a partnership between DEP, the state's five water management districts (WMDs), and statewide water associations.³ The aim of the initiative is to promote the reuse of water for drinking, cooking, or bathing to ensure that the state can maintain its water supply as the population increases.⁴

¹ U.S. Water Alliance, *One Water Road Map* (2016), available at https://uswateralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Roadmap-FINAL_0.pdf (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

² DEP, *One Water Florida*, <https://floridadep.gov/southwest/sw-permitting/campaign/one-water-florida> (last visited Mar. 17, 2025).

³ *Id.* The other partners of the initiative include the Florida section of the American Water Works Association, the Potable Reuse Commission, the Florida Water Environment Association, and WateReuse Florida. *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* DEP, *Recycled Water: Safely Supplying Florida's Future*, available at https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Recycled%20Water_General%20PPT%20WEB_1.pdf (last visited Mar. 17, 2025).

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State Water Supply

Florida's water supply comes from systems of rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, springs, aquifers, and estuaries.⁵ The fresh water supply is used for public water supply, agricultural irrigation, commercial and industrial use, domestic and small public supply, recreational irrigation, and power generation.⁶ It is possible for these uses to lower the flows and levels of water bodies to a point that the resource values are significantly harmed.⁷ To prevent this harm, DEP and the WMDs are responsible for identifying and establishing the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area.⁸ According to DEP, Floridians across the state use nearly 6.4 billion gallons of water per day.⁹ It is anticipated that, as the population of the state grows, an additional 1 billion gallons of water will be used per day by 2040.¹⁰

Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water is wastewater that has been disinfected¹¹ and has received treatment sufficient to achieve certain effluent limitations so that the resulting high-quality water may then be reused for beneficial purposes.¹² DEP establishes effluent limitations, which are limits on chemical, physical, biological, or other constituents that are discharged into waters of the state.¹³

Reuse of Reclaimed Water

Reuse of reclaimed water can replace using potable water in certain circumstances, allowing the state to conserve potable water.¹⁴ This is particularly important for Florida because the majority of the population lives near the coast where groundwater supplies are limited and are particularly vulnerable to saltwater intrusion.¹⁵ Florida is a national leader in water reuse, and in 2023, at least 891 million gallons per day (mgd) of reclaimed water were used for beneficial purposes.¹⁶ Using 891 mgd of reclaimed water is estimated to have avoided the use of over 154 billion gallons of potable-quality water while adding more than 94 billion gallons back to available ground water supplies.¹⁷

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure increases adaptive capacity in communities experiencing flooding, heat waves, and water quality challenges.¹⁸ Where site conditions allow, green infrastructure can be designed to soak water into the ground, which can increase the recharge rates of groundwater, helping to replenish groundwater reserves and maintain stream flows.¹⁹ Increasing groundwater recharge can help mitigate the impacts of drought events as well as the effects of urbanization and increased impervious cover.²⁰

Resolutions

Resolutions are not subject to action by the Governor and do not have the effect of law.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ DEP, *Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels and Reservations*, <https://floridadep.gov/owper/water-policy/content/minimum-flows-and-minimum-water-levels-and-reservations> (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ DEP, *One Water Florida*, <https://floridadep.gov/southwest/sw-permitting/campaign/one-water-florida> (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ "Disinfection" means the selective destruction of pathogens in wastewater effluents, reclaimed water, and biosolids. Rule 62-600.200(18), F.A.C.

¹² Section [373.019\(17\), F.S.](#)

¹³ Section [403.031\(3\), F.S.](#)

¹⁴ DEP, *Reuse Facts*, <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/reuse-facts> (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ DEP, *Florida's Reuse Activities*, <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/floridas-reuse-activities> (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *Environmental Benefits of Green Infrastructure*, <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/environmental-benefits-green-infrastructure> (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Map of Recycled Water Projects in the State](#)
[DEP FAQ on Water Reuse](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N, As CS	4/1/2025	Moore	Gawin
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specified that the House of Representatives encourages, instead of expresses support for, one water approaches to water resource management.• Removed the sources of water considered in the One Water approach.			
State Affairs Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
