

**By** the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; and Senator Bradley

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to biosolids management; amending s.  
3       403.0855, F.S.; prohibiting the land application of  
4       bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost  
5       products from exceeding the appropriate agronomic  
6       rate; providing requirements for the management of the  
7       land application of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer  
8       and biosolids compost products at or below the  
9       agronomic rate; defining the term "agronomic rate";  
10      prohibiting the bulk land application of biosolids  
11      when such bulk application constitutes disposal;  
12      defining the term "disposal"; requiring the owner or  
13      operator of certain land application sites to maintain  
14      application records for a specified timeframe and make  
15      such records available to the Department of  
16      Environmental Protection upon request; providing  
17      requirements for such records; requiring the  
18      University of Florida Institute of Food and  
19      Agricultural Sciences to, on a specified basis and  
20      beginning on a specified date, publish and make  
21      publicly available recommended agronomic rates for the  
22      reuse of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and  
23      compost products; providing requirements for such  
24      recommendations; providing applicability for specified  
25      inspection fees and tonnage reporting; prohibiting  
26      biosolids fertilizer products or biosolids compost  
27      products from being marketed or distributed for bulk  
28      land application as Class AA biosolids unless  
29      specified labeling and registration requirements are

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30 met; providing applicability; providing an effective  
31 date.

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

34  
35 Section 1. Subsections (7) through (12) are added to  
36 section 403.0855, Florida Statutes, to read:

37 403.0855 Biosolids management.—

38 (7) (a) The land application of bulk Class AA biosolids  
39 fertilizer and biosolids compost products may not exceed the  
40 appropriate agronomic rate. Land application of bulk Class AA  
41 biosolids fertilizer and biosolids compost products at or below  
42 the agronomic rate must be managed so that beneficial reuse,  
43 rather than biosolids disposal, is the primary objective as  
44 evidenced by the manner and circumstances of the application. As  
45 used in this subsection, the term "agronomic rate" means the  
46 nutrient application rate established using generally accepted,  
47 science-based nutrient management principles, including  
48 recommendations published by the University of Florida Institute  
49 of Food and Agricultural Sciences, which considers plant  
50 nutrient requirements; site-specific characteristics, including  
51 soil conditions; characteristics of the biosolids fertilizer or  
52 biosolids compost products, including nutrient release rates and  
53 soil amendment functions; other nutrient inputs applied to the  
54 site; and the protection of groundwater and surface water  
55 resources.

56 (b) Bulk land application of biosolids, including Class AA  
57 biosolids, to the extent that such bulk land application  
58 constitutes disposal, is prohibited, and violations shall be

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59 subject to chapter 403. As used in this subsection, the term  
60 "disposal" means the bulk land application of biosolids,  
61 including any application exceeding the agronomic rate, where,  
62 considering the manner and circumstances of the application, the  
63 nutrients applied cannot reasonably be expected to be taken up  
64 by a crop or vegetative cover during the relevant growing  
65 season, and the application results in the discard of biosolids  
66 on the land application site.

67 (8) The owner or operator of a land application site at  
68 which bulk agricultural land application of biosolids fertilizer  
69 or biosolids compost products occurs shall maintain application  
70 records for at least 5 years. Such records must be made  
71 available to the department upon request and must include all of  
72 the following:

73 (a) The classification and characteristics of the biosolids  
74 applied to the land application site.

75 (b) The physical address of the land application site.

76 (c) The quantity of biosolids transported to the land  
77 application site and received by the owner or operator of the  
78 land application site.

79 (d) The date on which such biosolids were received by the  
80 owner or operator of the land application site.

81 (e) The name of the person or entity responsible for the  
82 transportation of the biosolids to the land application site.

83 (f) The quantity of biosolids applied to the land  
84 application site.

85 (g) The name of the person or entity responsible for the  
86 physical application of the biosolids on the land application  
87 site.

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88 (h) The date on which land application of such biosolids  
89 occurred.

90 (9) The University of Florida Institute of Food and  
91 Agricultural Sciences shall, on a biennial basis, publish and  
92 make publicly available recommended agronomic rates for the  
93 beneficial reuse of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and  
94 biosolids compost products. The initial publication must occur  
95 by November 1, 2027. The recommendations must be informed by a  
96 review of the scientific literature and applicable available  
97 agronomic guidance and must include, but may not be limited to,  
98 all of the following:

99 (a) The characteristics of commonly produced biosolids  
100 products relevant to nutrient availability and environmental  
101 risk, including nutrient content, nutrient release  
102 characteristics, and physical form.

103 (b) Recommended agronomic rate ranges or application  
104 approaches that account for crop type, soil conditions,  
105 environmental vulnerabilities, seasonal factors, and management  
106 practices.

107 (c) The scientific basis and degree of supporting research  
108 for recommended agronomic rates, distinguishing recommendations  
109 suitable for general application from those requiring site-  
110 specific evaluation.

111 (d) Data gaps and product types, conditions, or practices  
112 for which additional field verification or research would  
113 improve future recommendations, including identification of  
114 relevant research priorities and associated resource  
115 considerations.

116 (e) Best practices for on-the-ground implementation and

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117 verification consistent with agronomic principles.

118 (10) Applicable inspection fees and tonnage reporting  
119 requirements required pursuant to chapter 576 apply to all Class  
120 AA biosolids fertilizer and biosolids compost products marketed  
121 or distributed for land application, including such products  
122 that are not sold and products that are land applied on property  
123 owned or controlled by the biosolids generator, distributor, or  
124 applicator.

125 (11) A biosolids fertilizer product or biosolids compost  
126 product may not be marketed or distributed for bulk agricultural  
127 land application as Class AA biosolids unless the product meets  
128 all applicable labeling and registration requirements of chapter  
129 576.

130 (12) Subsections (10) and (11) do not apply to Class AA  
131 biosolids compost products when the labeling does not claim any  
132 plant nutrients or beneficial plant growth properties, as  
133 described in s. 576.011(14), and when such biosolids compost  
134 products are enrolled in and certified under the U.S. Composting  
135 Council Seal of Testing Assurance program.

136 Section 2. This act shall take effect November 1, 2026.