



2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 1379

This comprehensive environmental protection legislation supports the goals of Executive Order 23-06 (Achieving Even More Now for Florida’s Environment), which was signed by Governor DeSantis in January of this year, and builds on our historic investments and accomplishments over the last four years in advancing the protection of our environmental resources.

STRENGTHENS BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS (BMAPs)

LIST OF IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

Requires a list of projects that achieve 5-year implementation milestones and meet Total Maximum Daily Load allocations.

AGRICULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCES

Specific list of regional projects to achieve nutrient reductions established for agricultural nonpoint sources.

INCREASED COORDINATION

Requires DEP to increase coordination with local governments, water management districts and other stakeholders to identify projects.

ENHANCES INDIAN RIVER LAGOON (IRL) PROTECTIONS

Enhances protections for the IRL by establishing dedicated funding for restoration projects, a comprehensive water quality monitoring program and new requirements and prohibitions on septic systems within the IRL watershed.

\$100 MILLION

Secures \$100 million for water quality projects to benefit the IRL.

JANUARY 1, 2024

Start date for prohibition on the installation of new septic systems (if not previously permitted) where sewer is available.

RESTORATION PLAN UPDATES

Requires IRL BMAPs to be updated every five years.

JULY 1, 2030

Deadline for existing septic systems to connect to central sewer or upgrade to enhanced nutrient-reducing system.

EXPANDS AND IMPROVES WATER QUALITY PROTECTIONS

Expands and improves water quality protections for areas within a BMAP or Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) through more stringent requirements for septic systems and wastewater treatment.

NEW CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

New construction on lots 1 acre or less will be required to connect to central sewer if available, or upgrade to enhanced nutrient-reducing system if unavailable.

WASTEWATER FACILITIES UPGRADES

By 2033, all wastewater facilities discharging to an impaired waterway must be upgraded to Advanced Wastewater Treatment.

EXPANDS WASTEWATER GRANT PROGRAM

Expands the eligible projects and project areas.

EXPANDS ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Expands eligible projects to include stormwater, agriculture and repairs to aging wastewater treatment facilities.

EXPANDS ELIGIBLE AREAS

Expands to include projects to benefit any waters not attaining water quality standards.

IMPROVES LOCAL GOVERNMENT LONG-TERM COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Improves local government long-term comprehensive planning to support environmental restoration.

INCLUSION OF BMAP PROJECTS

Requires local governments to include BMAP projects in their comprehensive plans so that these projects can be better prioritized to achieve restoration benefits.

SANITARY SEWER

Except for rural areas of opportunity, requires local governments to assess the feasibility of providing sanitary sewer for developments of more than 50 lots, on a 10-year planning horizon.

JULY 1, 2024

Deadline for comprehensive plans to be updated with new sanitary sewer requirements.

EXPEDITES STATE LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Expedites and creates efficiencies for the state’s land conservation efforts through the Florida Forever program.

INCREASES THRESHOLD FOR DEP DELEGATION

Adjusts threshold to \$5 million for land acquisitions requiring approval by the Board of Trustees.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Adds an emphasis on lands within the Florida Wildlife Corridor by including them as a specific public purpose for which the Board of Trustees may acquire land.

\$100 MILLION ANNUALLY

Creates dedicated funding of \$100 million annually to fund projects through the Florida Forever program.