

By the Committee on Agriculture; and Senator Simpson

575-01836-14

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reclaimed water; requiring the
3 Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a
4 study in coordination with the Department of
5 Agriculture and Consumer Services and the water
6 management districts on the expansion of the
7 beneficial use of reclaimed water and to submit a
8 report based upon such study; providing requirements
9 for the report; requiring the departments to provide
10 the public an opportunity for input and for public
11 comment; requiring that the report be submitted to the
12 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
13 providing an effective date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Reuse of reclaimed water.-

18 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection in
19 coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
20 Services and the five water management districts, shall conduct
21 a comprehensive study and submit a report on the expansion of
22 the beneficial use of reclaimed water, including stormwater and
23 excess surface water, in this state.

24 (2) The report must:

25 (a) Identify factors that prohibit or complicate the
26 expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water and recommend
27 how those factors can be mitigated or eliminated.

28 (b) Identify the environmental, engineering, public health,
29 public perception, and fiscal constraints of such an expansion,

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30 including utility rate structures for reclaimed water.

31 (c) Identify areas in the state where traditional water
32 supply sources are limited and the use of reclaimed water for
33 irrigation or other uses is necessary.

34 (d) Recommend permit incentives, such as extending current
35 authorizations for long-term consumptive use permits for all
36 entities that substitute reclaimed water for traditional water
37 sources that become unavailable or otherwise cost prohibitive.

38 (e) Determine the feasibility, benefit, and cost estimate
39 of the infrastructure needed to construct regional storage
40 features on public or private lands for reclaimed water,
41 including the collection and delivery mechanisms for beneficial
42 uses such as agricultural irrigation, power generation, public
43 water supply, wetland restoration, groundwater recharge, and
44 waterbody base flow augmentation.

45 (3) The departments shall:

46 (a) Hold a public meeting to gather input on the study
47 design.

48 (b) Provide an opportunity for public comment before
49 submitting the report.

50 (4) The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the
51 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
52 Representatives no later than December 1, 2015.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.