

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to reclaimed water; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study in cooperation with the water management districts on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water and to submit a report based upon such study; providing requirements for the report; requiring the departments to provide the public an opportunity for input and for public comment; requiring that the report be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Reuse of reclaimed water.—

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

(2) The report must:

(a) Identify factors that prohibit or complicate the 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  
29 health, public perception, and fiscal constraints of such an  
30 expansion, including utility rate structures for reclaimed  
31 water.

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

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

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

46 (3) The departments shall:

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

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

51 (4) The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the  
52 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of

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53 Representatives no later than December 1, 2015.

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