A bill to be entitled
An act relating to onsite sewage treatment and
disposal systems; transferring the Onsite Sewage
Program in the Department of Health to the Department
of Environmental Protection; directing the Department
of Health and the Department of Environmental
Protection to enter into a specified memorandum of
agreement regarding the transfer of the Onsite Sewage
Program; amending ss. 153.54, 153.73, 163.3180, and
180.03, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by
the act; amending s. 373.036, F.S.; directing water
management districts to submit consolidated annual
reports to the Office of Economic and Demographic
Research; requiring such reports to include septic-to-
sewer conversion and septic tank remediation projects;
amending ss. 373.807, 381.006, 381.0061, and 381.0064,
F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act
and conforming a cross-reference; amending s.
381.0065, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
by the act; removing provisions requiring certain
onsite sewage treatment and disposal system research
projects to be approved by a Department of Health
technical review and advisory panel; removing
provisions prohibiting the award of research projects
to certain entities; removing provisions establishing

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a Department of Health onsite sewage treatment and
disposal system research review and advisory
committee; providing criteria for calculating lot size
within priority focus areas for Outstanding Florida
Springs; allowing the use of specified nutrient
removing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems
to meet water quality protection and restoration
requirements; amending s. 381.00651, F.S.; directing
county health departments to coordinate with the
department to administer onsite sewage treatment and
disposal system evaluation programs; conforming
provisions to changes made by the act; creating s.
381.00652, F.S.; authorizing the Department of
Environmental Protection, in consultation with the
Department of Health, to appoint an onsite sewage
treatment and disposal systems technical advisory
committee; providing for committee purpose,
membership, and expiration; directing the department
to initiate rulemaking by a specified date and to
adopt specified rules; repealing s. 381.0068, F.S.,
relating to the Department of Health onsite sewage
treatment and disposal systems technical review and
advisory panel; amending s. 381.0101, F.S.; conforming
provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
403.067, F.S.; directing the department to submit
certain water quality project cost estimates to the 
Office of Economic and Demographic Research; amending 
s. 489.551, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes 
made by the act; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. All powers, duties, functions, records, 
offices, personnel, associated administrative support positions, 
property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative 
authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of 
appropriations, allocations, and other funds for the regulation 
of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems relating to the 
Onsite Sewage Program in the Department of Health are 
transferred by a type two transfer, as defined in s. 20.06(2), 
Florida Statutes, to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 2. Before January 1, 2020, the Department of 
Health and the Department of Environmental Protection shall 
enter into a new memorandum of agreement regarding the type 2 
transfer of the Onsite Sewage Program in section 1. The 
agreement must address all aspects of the type two transfer and 
the respective administrative and regulatory roles of the county 
health departments and the Department of Environmental 
Protection. This section shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 153.54, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

153.54 Preliminary report by county commissioners with respect to creation of proposed district.—Upon receipt of a petition duly signed by not less than 25 qualified electors who are also freeholders residing within an area proposed to be incorporated into a water and sewer district pursuant to this law and describing in general terms the proposed boundaries of such proposed district, the board of county commissioners if it shall deem it necessary and advisable to create and establish such proposed district for the purpose of constructing, establishing or acquiring a water system or a sewer system or both in and for such district (herein called "improvements"), shall first cause a preliminary report to be made which such report together with any other relevant or pertinent matters, shall include at least the following:

(5) For the construction of a new proposed central sewerage system or the extension of an existing central sewerage system that was not previously approved, the report shall include a study that includes the available information from the Department of Environmental Protection Health on the history of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems currently in use in the area and a comparison of the projected costs to the owner of a typical lot or parcel of connecting to and using the proposed central sewerage system versus installing, operating, and properly maintaining an onsite sewage treatment and disposal
system that is approved by the Department of Environmental Protection and that provides for the comparable level of environmental and health protection as the proposed central sewerage system; consideration of the local authority's obligations or reasonably anticipated obligations for water body cleanup and protection under state or federal programs, including requirements for water bodies listed under s. 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, Pub. L. No. 92-500, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq.; and other factors deemed relevant by the local authority.

Such report shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court and shall be open for the inspection of any taxpayer, property owner, qualified elector or any other interested or affected person.

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 153.73, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

153.73  Assessable improvements; levy and payment of special assessments.—Any district may provide for the construction or reconstruction of assessable improvements as defined in s. 153.52, and for the levying of special assessments upon benefited property for the payment thereof, under the provisions of this section.

(2)

(c) For the construction of a new proposed central
sewerage system or the extension of an existing central sewerage system that was not previously approved, the report shall include a study that includes the available information from the Department of Environmental Protection Health on the history of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems currently in use in the area and a comparison of the projected costs to the owner of a typical lot or parcel of connecting to and using the proposed central sewerage system versus installing, operating, and properly maintaining an onsite sewage treatment system that is approved by the Department of Environmental Protection Health and that provides for the comparable level of environmental and health protection as the proposed central sewerage system; consideration of the local authority's obligations or reasonably anticipated obligations for water body cleanup and protection under state or federal programs, including requirements for water bodies listed under s. 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, Pub. L. No. 92-500, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq.; and other factors deemed relevant by the local authority.

Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 163.3180, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.3180 Concurrency.—

(2) Consistent with public health and safety, sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage, adequate water supplies, and potable water facilities shall be in place and available to serve new development no later than the issuance by the local
government of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent. Before approval of a building permit or its functional equivalent, the local government shall consult with the applicable water supplier to determine whether adequate water supplies to serve the new development will be available no later than the anticipated date of issuance by the local government of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent. A local government may meet the concurrency requirement for sanitary sewer through the use of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems approved by the Department of Environmental Protection Health to serve new development.

Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 180.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

180.03 Resolution or ordinance proposing construction or extension of utility; objections to same.—

(3) For the construction of a new proposed central sewerage system or the extension of an existing central sewerage system that was not previously approved, the report shall include a study that includes the available information from the Department of Environmental Protection Health on the history of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems currently in use in the area and a comparison of the projected costs to the owner of a typical lot or parcel of connecting to and using the proposed central sewerage system versus installing, operating, and properly maintaining an onsite sewage treatment system that is
approved by the Department of Environmental Protection Health
and that provides for the comparable level of environmental and
health protection as the proposed central sewerage system;
consideration of the local authority's obligations or reasonably
anticipated obligations for water body cleanup and protection
under state or federal programs, including requirements for
water bodies listed under s. 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, Pub.
L. No. 92–500, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq.; and other factors
deemed relevant by the local authority. The results of the such
study shall be included in the resolution or ordinance
required under subsection (1).

Section 7. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (7) of
section 373.036, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

373.036 Florida water plan; district water management
plans.—

(7) CONSOLIDATED WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT.—
(a) By March 1, annually, each water management district
shall prepare and submit to the Office of Economic and
Demographic Research, the department, the Governor, the
President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
Representatives a consolidated water management district annual
report on the management of water resources. In addition, copies
must be provided by the water management districts to the chairs
of all legislative committees having substantive or fiscal
jurisdiction over the districts and the governing board of each
county in the district having jurisdiction or deriving any funds
for operations of the district. Copies of the consolidated
annual report must be made available to the public, either in
printed or electronic format.

(b) The consolidated annual report shall contain the
following elements, as appropriate to that water management
district:

1. A district water management plan annual report or the
annual work plan report allowed in subparagraph (2)(e)4.

2. The department-approved minimum flows and minimum water
levels annual priority list and schedule required by s.
373.042(3).

3. The annual 5-year capital improvements plan required by
s. 373.536(6)(a)3.

4. The alternative water supplies annual report required
by s. 373.707(8)(n).

5. The final annual 5-year water resource development work
program required by s. 373.536(6)(a)4.

6. The Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan
annual report required by s. 373.199(7).

7. The mitigation donation annual report required by s.
373.414(1)(b)2.

8. Information on all projects related to water quality or
water quantity as part of a 5-year work program, including:

a. A list of all specific projects identified to implement
a basin management action plan, including any septic-to-sewer
conversion and septic tank remediation projects, or a recovery
or prevention strategy;

b. A priority ranking for each listed project for which
state funding through the water resources development work
program is requested, which must be made available to the public
for comment at least 30 days before submission of the
consolidated annual report;

c. The estimated cost for each listed project;

d. The estimated completion date for each listed project;

e. The source and amount of financial assistance to be
made available by the department, a water management district,
or other entity for each listed project; and

f. A quantitative estimate of each listed project's
benefit to the watershed, water body, or water segment in which
it is located.

9. A grade for each watershed, water body, or water
segment in which a project listed under subparagraph 8. is
located representing the level of impairment and violations of
adopted minimum flow or minimum water levels. The grading system
must reflect the severity of the impairment of the watershed, 
water body, or water segment.

Section 8. Subsection (3) of section 373.807, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

373.807 Protection of water quality in Outstanding Florida
Springs.—By July 1, 2016, the department shall initiate
assessment, pursuant to s. 403.067(3), of Outstanding Florida
Springs or spring systems for which an impairment determination
has not been made under the numeric nutrient standards in effect
for spring vents. Assessments must be completed by July 1, 2018.

(3) As part of a basin management action plan that
includes an Outstanding Florida Spring, the department, the
Department of Health, relevant local governments, and relevant
local public and private wastewater utilities shall develop an
onsite sewage treatment and disposal system remediation plan for
a spring if the department determines onsite sewage treatment
and disposal systems within a priority focus area contribute at
least 20 percent of nonpoint source nitrogen pollution or if the
department determines remediation is necessary to achieve the
total maximum daily load. The plan shall identify cost-effective
and financially feasible projects necessary to reduce the
nutrient impacts from onsite sewage treatment and disposal
systems and shall be completed and adopted as part of the basin
management action plan no later than the first 5-year milestone
required by subparagraph (1)(b)8. The department is the lead
agency in coordinating the preparation of and the adoption of
the plan. The department shall:

(a) Collect and evaluate credible scientific information
on the effect of nutrients, particularly forms of nitrogen, on
springs and springs systems; and
(b) Develop a public education plan to provide area residents with reliable, understandable information about onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems and springs.

In addition to the requirements in s. 403.067, the plan shall include options for repair, upgrade, replacement, drainfield modification, addition of effective nitrogen reducing features, connection to a central sewerage system, or other action for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system or group of systems within a priority focus area that contribute at least 20 percent of nonpoint source nitrogen pollution or if the department determines remediation is necessary to achieve a total maximum daily load. For these systems, the department shall include in the plan a priority ranking for each system or group of systems that requires remediation and shall award funds to implement the remediation projects contingent on an appropriation in the General Appropriations Act, which may include all or part of the costs necessary for repair, upgrade, replacement, drainfield modification, addition of effective nitrogen reducing features, initial connection to a central sewerage system, or other action. In awarding funds, the department may consider expected nutrient reduction benefit per unit cost, size and scope of project, relative local financial contribution to the project, and the financial impact on property owners and the community. The department may waive matching funding requirements for
proposed projects within an area designated as a rural area of opportunity under s. 288.0656.

Section 9. Section 381.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.006 Environmental health.—The Department of Health shall conduct an environmental health program as part of fulfilling the state's public health mission. The purpose of this program is to detect and prevent disease caused by natural and manmade factors in the environment. The environmental health program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A drinking water function.
2. An environmental health surveillance function which shall collect, compile, and correlate information on public health and exposure to hazardous substances through sampling and testing of water, air, or foods. Environmental health surveillance shall include a comprehensive assessment of drinking water under the department's supervision and an indoor air quality testing and monitoring program to assess health risks from exposure to chemical, physical, and biological agents in the indoor environment.
3. A toxicology and hazard assessment function which shall conduct toxicological and human health risk assessments of exposure to toxic agents, for the purposes of:
   a. Supporting determinations by the State Health Officer of safe levels of contaminants in water, air, or food if
applicable standards or criteria have not been adopted. These
determinations shall include issuance of health advisories to
protect the health and safety of the public at risk from
exposure to toxic agents.
(b) Provision of human toxicological health risk
assessments to the public and other governmental agencies to
characterize the risks to the public from exposure to
contaminants in air, water, or food.
(c) Consultation and technical assistance to the
Department of Environmental Protection and other governmental
agencies on actions necessary to ameliorate exposure to toxic
agents, including the emergency provision by the Department of
Environmental Protection of drinking water in cases of drinking
water contamination that present an imminent and substantial
threat to the public's health, as required by s. 376.30(3)(c)1.a.
(d) Monitoring and reporting the body burden of toxic
agents to estimate past exposure to these toxic agents, predict
future health effects, and decrease the incidence of poisoning
by identifying and eliminating exposure.
(4) A sanitary nuisance function, as that term is defined
in chapter 386.
(5) A migrant labor function.
(6) A public facilities function, including sanitary
practices relating to state, county, municipal, and private
institutions serving the public; jointly with the Department of Education, publicly and privately owned schools; all places used for the incarceration of prisoners and inmates of state institutions for the mentally ill; toilets and washrooms in all public places and places of employment; any other condition, place, or establishment necessary for the control of disease or the protection and safety of public health.

(7) An onsite sewage treatment and disposal function.

(7) (8) A biohazardous waste control function.

(8) (9) A function to control diseases transmitted from animals to humans, including the segregation, quarantine, and destruction of domestic pets and wild animals having or suspected of having such diseases.

(9) (10) An environmental epidemiology function which shall investigate food-borne disease, waterborne disease, and other diseases of environmental causation, whether of chemical, radiological, or microbiological origin. A $10 surcharge for this function shall be assessed upon all persons permitted under chapter 500. This function shall include an educational program for physicians and health professionals designed to promote surveillance and reporting of environmental diseases, and to further the dissemination of knowledge about the relationship between toxic substances and human health which will be useful in the formulation of public policy and will be a source of information for the public.
(10) Mosquito and pest control functions as provided in chapters 388 and 482.

(11) A radiation control function as provided in chapter 404 and part IV of chapter 468.

(12) A public swimming and bathing facilities function as provided in chapter 514.

(13) A mobile home park, lodging park, recreational vehicle park, and recreational camp function as provided in chapter 513.

(14) A sanitary facilities function, which shall include minimum standards for the maintenance and sanitation of sanitary facilities; public access to sanitary facilities; and fixture ratios for special or temporary events and for homeless shelters.

(15) A group-care-facilities function. As used in this subsection, the term "group care facility" means any public or private school, assisted living facility, adult family-care home, adult day care center, short-term residential treatment center, residential treatment facility, home for special services, transitional living facility, crisis stabilization unit, hospice, prescribed pediatric extended care center, intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities, or boarding school. The department may adopt rules necessary to protect the health and safety of residents, staff, and patrons of group care facilities. Rules related to public

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and private schools shall be developed by the Department of Education in consultation with the department. Rules adopted under this subsection may include definitions of terms; provisions relating to operation and maintenance of facilities, buildings, grounds, equipment, furnishings, and occupant-space requirements; lighting; heating, cooling, and ventilation; food service; water supply and plumbing; sewage; sanitary facilities; insect and rodent control; garbage; safety; personnel health, hygiene, and work practices; and other matters the department finds are appropriate or necessary to protect the safety and health of the residents, staff, students, faculty, or patrons. The department may not adopt rules that conflict with rules adopted by the licensing or certifying agency. The department may enter and inspect at reasonable hours to determine compliance with applicable statutes or rules. In addition to any sanctions that the department may impose for violations of rules adopted under this section, the department shall also report such violations to any agency responsible for licensing or certifying the group care facility. The licensing or certifying agency may also impose any sanction based solely on the findings of the department.

A function for investigating elevated levels of lead in blood. Each participating county health department may expend funds for federally mandated certification or recertification fees related to conducting investigations of
elevated levels of lead in blood.

A food service inspection function for domestic violence centers that are certified by the Department of Children and Families and monitored by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence under part XII of chapter 39 and group care homes as described in subsection (16), which shall be conducted annually and be limited to the requirements in department rule applicable to community-based residential facilities with five or fewer residents.

The department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 381.0061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.0061 Administrative fines.—

(1) In addition to any administrative action authorized by chapter 120 or by other law, the department may impose a fine, which shall not exceed $500 for each violation, for a violation of s. 381.006, s. 381.0065, s. 381.0066, s. 381.0072, or part III of chapter 489, for a violation of any rule adopted under this chapter, or for a violation of any of the provisions of chapter 386. Notice of intent to impose such fine shall be given by the department to the alleged violator. Each day that a violation continues may constitute a separate violation.
Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 381.0064, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.0064 Continuing education courses for persons installing or servicing septic tanks.—

(1) The Department of Environmental Protection shall establish a program for continuing education which meets the purposes of ss. 381.0101 and 489.554 regarding the public health and environmental effects of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems and any other matters the department determines desirable for the safe installation and use of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. The department may charge a fee to cover the cost of such program.

Section 12. Paragraphs (d) and (e) and paragraphs (g) through (q) of subsection (2) of section 381.0065, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (e) and (g), respectively, and paragraphs (h) through (r), respectively, paragraph (j) of subsection (3) and subsection (4) are amended, a new paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2), and subsections (7) and (8) are added to that section, to read:

381.0065 Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems; regulation.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in ss. 381.0065-381.0067, the term:

(d) "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection.
(3) DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION—The department shall:

(j) Supervise research on, demonstration of, and training on the performance, environmental impact, and public health impact of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems within this state. Research fees collected under s. 381.0066(2)(k) must be used to develop and fund hands-on training centers designed to provide practical information about onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to septic tank contractors, master septic tank contractors, contractors, inspectors, engineers, and the public and must also be used to fund research projects which focus on improvements of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, including use of performance-based standards and reduction of environmental impact. Research projects shall be initially approved by the technical review and advisory panel and shall be applicable to and reflect the soil conditions specific to Florida. Such projects shall be awarded through competitive negotiation, using the procedures provided in s. 287.055, to public or private entities that have experience in onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in Florida and that are principally located in Florida. Research projects shall not be awarded to firms or entities that employ or are associated with persons who serve on either the technical review and advisory panel or the research review and advisory committee.

(4) PERMITS; INSTALLATION; AND CONDITIONS.—A person may
not construct, repair, modify, abandon, or operate an onsite
sewage treatment and disposal system without first obtaining a
permit approved by the department. The department may issue
permits to carry out this section, but shall not make the
issuance of such permits contingent upon prior approval by the
department of Environmental Protection, except that the issuance
of a permit for work seaward of the coastal construction control
line established under s. 161.053 shall be contingent upon
receipt of any required coastal construction control line permit
from the department of Environmental Protection. A construction
permit is valid for 18 months after from the date of issuance
date and may be extended by the department for one 90-day period
under rules adopted by the department. A repair permit is valid
for 90 days from the date of issuance. An operating permit must
be obtained before prior to the use of any aerobic treatment
unit or if the establishment generates commercial waste.
Buildings or establishments that use an aerobic treatment unit
or generate commercial waste shall be inspected by the
department at least annually to assure compliance with the terms
of the operating permit. The operating permit for a commercial
wastewater system is valid for 1 year after from the date of
issuance and must be renewed annually. The operating permit for
an aerobic treatment unit is valid for 2 years after from the
date of issuance and must be renewed every 2 years. If all
information pertaining to the siting, location, and installation
conditions or repair of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system remains the same, a construction or repair permit for the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system may be transferred to another person, if the transferee files, within 60 days after the transfer of ownership, an amended application providing all corrected information and proof of ownership of the property. A fee is not associated with the processing of this supplemental information. A person may not contract to construct, modify, alter, repair, service, abandon, or maintain any portion of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system without being registered under part III of chapter 489. A property owner who personally performs construction, maintenance, or repairs to a system serving his or her own owner-occupied single-family residence is exempt from registration requirements for performing such construction, maintenance, or repairs on that residence, but is subject to all permitting requirements. A municipality or political subdivision of the state may not issue a building or plumbing permit for any building that requires the use of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system unless the owner or builder has received a construction permit for such system from the department. A building or structure may not be occupied and a municipality, political subdivision, or any state or federal agency may not authorize occupancy until the department approves the final installation of the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system.
A municipality or political subdivision of the state may not approve any change in occupancy or tenancy of a building that uses an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system until the department has reviewed the use of the system with the proposed change, approved the change, and amended the operating permit.

(a) Subdivisions and lots in which each lot has a minimum area of at least one-half acre and either a minimum dimension of 100 feet or a mean of at least 100 feet of the side bordering the street and the distance formed by a line parallel to the side bordering the street drawn between the two most distant points of the remainder of the lot may be developed with a water system regulated under s. 381.0062 and onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, provided the projected daily sewage flow does not exceed an average of 1,500 gallons per acre per day, and provided satisfactory drinking water can be obtained and all distance and setback, soil condition, water table elevation, and other related requirements of this section and rules adopted under this section can be met.

(b) Subdivisions and lots using a public water system as defined in s. 403.852 may use onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, provided there are no more than four lots per acre, provided the projected daily sewage flow does not exceed an average of 2,500 gallons per acre per day, and provided that all distance and setback, soil condition, water table elevation, and other related requirements that are generally applicable to
the use of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems are met.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), for subdivisions platted of record on or before October 1, 1991, when a developer or other appropriate entity has previously made or makes provisions, including financial assurances or other commitments, acceptable to the department of Health, that a central water system will be installed by a regulated public utility based on a density formula, private potable wells may be used with onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems until the agreed-upon densities are reached. In a subdivision regulated by this paragraph, the average daily sewage flow may not exceed 2,500 gallons per acre per day. This section does not affect the validity of existing prior agreements. After October 1, 1991, the exception provided under this paragraph is not available to a developer or other appropriate entity.

(d) Paragraphs (a) and (b) do not apply to any proposed residential subdivision with more than 50 lots or to any proposed commercial subdivision with more than 5 lots where a publicly owned or investor-owned sewage treatment system is available. It is the intent of This paragraph does not to allow development of additional proposed subdivisions in order to evade the requirements of this paragraph.

(e) Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems must not be placed closer than:

1. Seventy-five feet from a private potable well.
2. Two hundred feet from a public potable well serving a residential or nonresidential establishment having a total sewage flow of greater than 2,000 gallons per day.

3. One hundred feet from a public potable well serving a residential or nonresidential establishment having a total sewage flow of less than or equal to 2,000 gallons per day.

4. Fifty feet from any nonpotable well.

5. Ten feet from any storm sewer pipe, to the maximum extent possible, but in no instance shall the setback be less than 5 feet.

6. Seventy-five feet from the mean high-water line of a tidally influenced surface water body.

7. Seventy-five feet from the mean annual flood line of a permanent nontidal surface water body.

8. Fifteen feet from the design high-water line of retention areas, detention areas, or swales designed to contain standing or flowing water for less than 72 hours after a rainfall or the design high-water level of normally dry drainage ditches or normally dry individual lot stormwater retention areas.

(f) Except as provided under paragraphs (e) and (t), no limitations may not shall be imposed by rule, relating to the distance between an onsite disposal system and any area that either permanently or temporarily has visible surface water.

(g) All provisions of This section and rules adopted under

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this section relating to soil condition, water table elevation, distance, and other setback requirements must be equally applied to all lots, with the following exceptions:

1. Any residential lot that was platted and recorded on or after January 1, 1972, or that is part of a residential subdivision that was approved by the appropriate permitting agency on or after January 1, 1972, and that was eligible for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system construction permit on the date of such platting and recording or approval shall be eligible for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system construction permit, regardless of when the application for a permit is made. If rules in effect at the time the permit application is filed cannot be met, residential lots platted and recorded or approved on or after January 1, 1972, shall, to the maximum extent possible, comply with the rules in effect at the time the permit application is filed. At a minimum, however, those residential lots platted and recorded or approved on or after January 1, 1972, but before January 1, 1983, shall comply with those rules in effect on January 1, 1983, and those residential lots platted and recorded or approved on or after January 1, 1983, shall comply with those rules in effect at the time of such platting and recording or approval. In determining the maximum extent of compliance with current rules that is possible, the department shall allow structures and appurtenances thereto which were authorized at the time such
lots were platted and recorded or approved.

2. Lots platted before 1972 are subject to a 50-foot minimum surface water setback and are not subject to lot size requirements. The projected daily flow for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems for lots platted before 1972 may not exceed:

   a. Two thousand five hundred gallons per acre per day for lots served by public water systems as defined in s. 403.852.
   b. One thousand five hundred gallons per acre per day for lots served by water systems regulated under s. 381.0062.

(h)1. The department may grant variances in hardship cases which may be less restrictive than the provisions specified in this section. If a variance is granted and the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system construction permit has been issued, the variance may be transferred with the system construction permit, if the transferee files, within 60 days after the transfer of ownership, an amended construction permit application providing all corrected information and proof of ownership of the property and if the same variance would have been required for the new owner of the property as was originally granted to the original applicant for the variance. A fee is not associated with the processing of this supplemental information. A variance may not be granted under this section until the department is satisfied that:

   a. The hardship was not caused intentionally by the action
of the applicant;

b. A reasonable alternative, taking into consideration factors such as cost, does not exist for the treatment of the sewage; and

c. The discharge from the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system will not adversely affect the health of the applicant or the public or significantly degrade the groundwater or surface waters.

Where soil conditions, water table elevation, and setback provisions are determined by the department to be satisfactory, special consideration must be given to those lots platted before 1972.

2. The department shall appoint and staff a variance review and advisory committee, which shall meet monthly to recommend agency action on variance requests. The committee shall make its recommendations on variance requests at the meeting in which the application is scheduled for consideration, except for an extraordinary change in circumstances, the receipt of new information that raises new issues, or when the applicant requests an extension. The committee shall consider the criteria in subparagraph 1. in its recommended agency action on variance requests and shall also strive to allow property owners the full use of their land where possible. The committee consists of the following:
a. The Secretary of Environmental Protection State Surgeon General or his or her designee.

b. A representative from the county health departments.

c. A representative from the home building industry recommended by the Florida Home Builders Association.

d. A representative from the septic tank industry recommended by the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association.

e. A representative from the Department of Health Environmental Protection.

f. A representative from the real estate industry who is also a developer in this state who develops lots using onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, recommended by the Florida Association of Realtors.

g. A representative from the engineering profession recommended by the Florida Engineering Society.

Members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, with such appointments being staggered so that the terms of no more than two members expire in any one year. Members shall serve without remuneration, but if requested, shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

(i) A construction permit may not be issued for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system in any area zoned or used for industrial or manufacturing purposes, or its equivalent, where a publicly owned or investor-owned sewage treatment system
is available, or where a likelihood exists that the system will receive toxic, hazardous, or industrial waste. An existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal system may be repaired if a publicly owned or investor-owned sewage treatment system is not available within 500 feet of the building sewer stub-out and if system construction and operation standards can be met. This paragraph does not require publicly owned or investor-owned sewage treatment systems to accept anything other than domestic wastewater.

1. A building located in an area zoned or used for industrial or manufacturing purposes, or its equivalent, when such building is served by an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system, must not be occupied until the owner or tenant has obtained written approval from the department. The department may shall not grant approval when the proposed use of the system is to dispose of toxic, hazardous, or industrial wastewater or toxic or hazardous chemicals.

2. Each person who owns or operates a business or facility in an area zoned or used for industrial or manufacturing purposes, or its equivalent, or who owns or operates a business that has the potential to generate toxic, hazardous, or industrial wastewater or toxic or hazardous chemicals, and uses an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that is installed on or after July 5, 1989, must obtain an annual system operating permit from the department. A person who owns or operates a
business that uses an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that was installed and approved before July 5, 1989, does not need to obtain a system operating permit. However, upon change of ownership or tenancy, the new owner or operator must notify the department of the change, and the new owner or operator must obtain an annual system operating permit, regardless of the date that the system was installed or approved.

3. The department shall periodically review and evaluate the continued use of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in areas zoned or used for industrial or manufacturing purposes, or its equivalent, and may require the collection and analyses of samples from within and around such systems. If the department finds that toxic or hazardous chemicals or toxic, hazardous, or industrial wastewater have been or are being disposed of through an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system, the department shall initiate enforcement actions against the owner or tenant to ensure adequate cleanup, treatment, and disposal.

(j) An onsite sewage treatment and disposal system designed by a professional engineer registered in the state and certified by such engineer as complying with performance criteria adopted by the department must be approved by the department subject to the following:

1. The performance criteria applicable to engineer-
designed systems must be limited to those necessary to ensure
that such systems do not adversely affect the public health or
significantly degrade the groundwater or surface water. Such
performance criteria shall include consideration of the quality
of system effluent, the proposed total sewage flow per acre,
wastewater treatment capabilities of the natural or replaced
soil, water quality classification of the potential surface-
water-receiving body, and the structural and maintenance
viability of the system for the treatment of domestic
wastewater. However, performance criteria shall address only the
performance of a system and not a system's design.

2. A person electing to use utilize an engineer-designed
system shall, upon completion of the system design, submit such
design, certified by a registered professional engineer, to the
county health department. The county health department may use
utilize an outside consultant to review the engineer-designed
system, with the actual cost of such review to be borne by the
applicant. Within 5 working days after receiving an engineer-
designed system permit application, the county health department
shall request additional information if the application is not
complete. Within 15 working days after receiving a complete
application for an engineer-designed system, the county health
department either shall issue the permit or, if it determines
that the system does not comply with the performance criteria,
shall notify the applicant of that determination and refer the
application to the department for a determination as to whether
the system should be approved, disapproved, or approved with
modification. The department engineer's determination shall
prevail over the action of the county health department. The
applicant shall be notified in writing of the department's
determination and of the applicant's rights to pursue a variance
or seek review under the provisions of chapter 120.

3. The owner of an engineer-designed performance-based
system must maintain a current maintenance service agreement
with a maintenance entity permitted by the department. The
maintenance entity shall inspect each system at least twice each
year and shall report quarterly to the department on the number
of systems inspected and serviced. The reports may be submitted
electronically.

4. The property owner of an owner-occupied, single-family
residence may be approved and permitted by the department as a
maintenance entity for his or her own performance-based
treatment system upon written certification from the system
manufacturer's approved representative that the property owner
has received training on the proper installation and service of
the system. The maintenance service agreement must conspicuously
disclose that the property owner has the right to maintain his
or her own system and is exempt from contractor registration
requirements for performing construction, maintenance, or
repairs on the system but is subject to all permitting
5. The property owner shall obtain a biennial system operating permit from the department for each system. The department shall inspect the system at least annually, or on such periodic basis as the fee collected permits, and may collect system-effluent samples if appropriate to determine compliance with the performance criteria. The fee for the biennial operating permit shall be collected beginning with the second year of system operation.

6. If an engineer-designed system fails to properly function or fails to meet performance standards, the system shall be re-engineered, if necessary, to bring the system into compliance with the provisions of this section.

(k) An innovative system may be approved in conjunction with an engineer-designed site-specific system that which is certified by the engineer to meet the performance-based criteria adopted by the department.

(l) For the Florida Keys, the department shall adopt a special rule for the construction, installation, modification, operation, repair, maintenance, and performance of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems which considers the unique soil conditions and water table elevations, densities, and setback requirements. On lots where a setback distance of 75 feet from surface waters, saltmarsh, and buttonwood association habitat areas cannot be met, an injection well, approved and permitted
by the department, may be used for disposal of effluent from onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. The following additional requirements apply to onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in Monroe County:

1. The county, each municipality, and those special districts established for the purpose of the collection, transmission, treatment, or disposal of sewage shall ensure, in accordance with the specific schedules adopted by the Administration Commission under s. 380.0552, the completion of onsite sewage treatment and disposal system upgrades to meet the requirements of this paragraph.

2. Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems must cease discharge by December 31, 2015, or must comply with department rules and provide the level of treatment which, on a permitted annual average basis, produces an effluent that contains no more than the following concentrations:

   a. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD5) of 10 mg/l.
   b. Suspended Solids of 10 mg/l.
   c. Total Nitrogen, expressed as N, of 10 mg/l or a reduction in nitrogen of at least 70 percent. A system that has been tested and certified to reduce nitrogen concentrations by at least 70 percent shall be deemed to be in compliance with this standard.
   d. Total Phosphorus, expressed as P, of 1 mg/l.
In addition, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems discharging to an injection well must provide basic disinfection as defined by department rule.

3. In areas not scheduled to be served by a central sewerage system, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems must, by December 31, 2015, comply with department rules and provide the level of treatment described in subparagraph 2.

4. In areas scheduled to be served by a central sewerage system by December 31, 2015, if the property owner has paid a connection fee or assessment for connection to the central sewerage system, the property owner may install a holding tank with a high water alarm or an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that meets the following minimum standards:
   a. The existing tanks must be pumped and inspected and certified as being watertight and free of defects in accordance with department rule; and
   b. A sand-lined drainfield or injection well in accordance with department rule must be installed.

5. Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems must be monitored for total nitrogen and total phosphorus concentrations as required by department rule.

6. The department shall enforce proper installation, operation, and maintenance of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems pursuant to this chapter, including ensuring
that the appropriate level of treatment described in
subparagraph 2. is met.

7. The authority of a local government, including a
special district, to mandate connection of an onsite sewage
treatment and disposal system is governed by s. 4, chapter 99-
395, Laws of Florida.

8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an onsite
sewage treatment and disposal system installed after July 1, 2010, in unincorporated Monroe County, excluding special
wastewater districts, that complies with the standards in
subparagraph 2. is not required to connect to a central sewerage
system until December 31, 2020.

(m) Any product sold in the state for use in onsite
sewage treatment and disposal systems may not contain any
substance in concentrations or amounts that would interfere with
or prevent the successful operation of such system, or that
would cause discharges from such systems to violate applicable
water quality standards. The department shall publish criteria
for products known or expected to meet the conditions of this
paragraph. If a product does not meet such
criteria, such product may be sold if the manufacturer
satisfactorily demonstrates to the department that the
conditions of this paragraph are met.

(n) Evaluations for determining the seasonal high-water
table elevations or the suitability of soils for the use of a
new onsite sewage treatment and disposal system shall be performed by department personnel, professional engineers registered in the state, or such other persons with expertise, as defined by rule, in making such evaluations. Evaluations for determining mean annual flood lines shall be performed by those persons identified in paragraph (2)(j). The department shall accept evaluations submitted by professional engineers and such other persons as meet the expertise established by this section or by rule unless the department has a reasonable scientific basis for questioning the accuracy or completeness of the evaluation.

(o) The department shall appoint a research review and advisory committee, which shall meet at least semiannually. The committee shall advise the department on directions for new research, review and rank proposals for research contracts, and review draft research reports and make comments. The committee is comprised of:

1. A representative of the State Surgeon General, or his or her designee.
2. A representative from the septic tank industry.
3. A representative from the home building industry.
4. A representative from an environmental interest group.
5. A representative from the State University System, from a department knowledgeable about onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.
6. A professional engineer registered in this state who
has work experience in onsite sewage treatment and disposal
systems.

7. A representative from local government who is
knowledgeable about domestic wastewater treatment.

8. A representative from the real estate profession.

9. A representative from the restaurant industry.

10. A consumer.

Members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, with the
appointments being staggered so that the terms of no more than
four members expire in any one year. Members shall serve without
remuneration, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

(o) An application for an onsite sewage treatment and
disposal system permit shall be completed in full, signed by the
owner or the owner's authorized representative, or by a
contractor licensed under chapter 489, and shall be accompanied
by all required exhibits and fees. No specific documentation of
property ownership shall be required as a prerequisite to
the review of an application or the issuance of a permit. The
issuance of a permit does not constitute determination by the
department of property ownership.

(p) The department may not require any form of
subdivision analysis of property by an owner, developer, or
subdivider before prior to submission of an application for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system.

(q)(r) Nothing in This section does not limit limits the power of a municipality or county to enforce other laws for the protection of the public health and safety.

(r)(s) In the siting of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, including drainfields, shoulders, and slopes, guttering may shall not be required on single-family residential dwelling units for systems located greater than 5 feet from the roof drip line of the house. If guttering is used on residential dwelling units, the downspouts shall be directed away from the drainfield.

(s)(t) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (g)1., onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems located in floodways of the Suwannee and Aucilla Rivers must adhere to the following requirements:

1. The absorption surface of the drainfield may shall not be subject to flooding based on 10-year flood elevations.

Provided, however, for lots or parcels created by the subdivision of land in accordance with applicable local government regulations before prior to January 17, 1990, if an applicant cannot construct a drainfield system with the absorption surface of the drainfield at an elevation equal to or above 10-year flood elevation, the department shall issue a permit for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system within
the 10-year floodplain of rivers, streams, and other bodies of flowing water if all of the following criteria are met:

a. The lot is at least one-half acre in size;

b. The bottom of the drainfield is at least 36 inches above the 2-year flood elevation; and

c. The applicant installs either a waterless, incinerating, or organic waste composting toilet and a graywater system and drainfield in accordance with department rules; an aerobic treatment unit and drainfield in accordance with department rules; a system approved by the State Health Office that is capable of reducing effluent nitrate by at least 50 percent in accordance with department rules; or a system other than a system using alternative drainfield materials in accordance with department rules approved by the county health department pursuant to department rule other than a system using alternative drainfield materials. The United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service soil maps, State of Florida Water Management District data, and Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance maps are resources that shall be used to identify flood-prone areas.

2. The use of fill or mounding to elevate a drainfield system out of the 10-year floodplain of rivers, streams, or other bodies of flowing water may not be permitted if such a system lies within a regulatory floodway of the Suwannee and Aucilla Rivers. In cases where the 10-year flood elevation does
not coincide with the boundaries of the regulatory floodway, the regulatory floodway will be considered for the purposes of this subsection to extend at a minimum to the 10-year flood elevation.

   (t)1. (u)1. The owner of an aerobic treatment unit system shall maintain a current maintenance service agreement with an aerobic treatment unit maintenance entity permitted by the department. The maintenance entity shall inspect each aerobic treatment unit system at least twice each year and shall report quarterly to the department on the number of aerobic treatment unit systems inspected and serviced. The reports may be submitted electronically.

  2. The property owner of an owner-occupied, single-family residence may be approved and permitted by the department as a maintenance entity for his or her own aerobic treatment unit system upon written certification from the system manufacturer's approved representative that the property owner has received training on the proper installation and service of the system. The maintenance entity service agreement must conspicuously disclose that the property owner has the right to maintain his or her own system and is exempt from contractor registration requirements for performing construction, maintenance, or repairs on the system but is subject to all permitting requirements.

  3. A septic tank contractor licensed under part III of
chapter 489, if approved by the manufacturer, may not be denied access by the manufacturer to aerobic treatment unit system training or spare parts for maintenance entities. After the original warranty period, component parts for an aerobic treatment unit system may be replaced with parts that meet manufacturer's specifications but are manufactured by others. The maintenance entity shall maintain documentation of the substitute part's equivalency for 2 years and shall provide such documentation to the department upon request.

4. The owner of an aerobic treatment unit system shall obtain a system operating permit from the department and allow the department to inspect during reasonable hours each aerobic treatment unit system at least annually, and such inspection may include collection and analysis of system-effluent samples for performance criteria established by rule of the department.

   (u) (v) The department may require the submission of detailed system construction plans that are prepared by a professional engineer registered in this state. The department shall establish by rule criteria for determining when such a submission is required.

   (v) (w) Any permit issued and approved by the department for the installation, modification, or repair of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system shall transfer with the title to the property in a real estate transaction. A title may not be encumbered at the time of transfer by new permit
requirements by a governmental entity for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system which differ from the permitting requirements in effect at the time the system was permitted, modified, or repaired. An inspection of a system may not be mandated by a governmental entity at the point of sale in a real estate transaction. This paragraph does not affect a septic tank phase-out deferral program implemented by a consolidated government as defined in s. 9, Art. VIII of the State Constitution (1885).

(w) A governmental entity, including a municipality, county, or statutorily created commission, may not require an engineer-designed performance-based treatment system, excluding a passive engineer-designed performance-based treatment system, before the completion of the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Project. This paragraph does not apply to a governmental entity, including a municipality, county, or statutorily created commission, which adopted a local law, ordinance, or regulation on or before January 31, 2012. Notwithstanding this paragraph, an engineer-designed performance-based treatment system may be used to meet the requirements of the variance review and advisory committee recommendations.

(x) An onsite sewage treatment and disposal system is not considered abandoned if the system is disconnected from a structure that was made unusable or destroyed following a
disaster and if the system was properly functioning at the time of disconnection and was not adversely affected by the disaster. The onsite sewage treatment and disposal system may be reconnected to a rebuilt structure if:

a. The reconnection of the system is to the same type of structure which contains the same number of bedrooms or fewer, if the square footage of the structure is less than or equal to 110 percent of the original square footage of the structure that existed before the disaster;

b. The system is not a sanitary nuisance; and

c. The system has not been altered without prior authorization.

2. An onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that serves a property that is foreclosed upon is not considered abandoned.

(y) (z) If an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system permittee receives, relies upon, and undertakes construction of a system based upon a validly issued construction permit under rules applicable at the time of construction but a change to a rule occurs within 5 years after the approval of the system for construction but before the final approval of the system, the rules applicable and in effect at the time of construction approval apply at the time of final approval if fundamental site conditions have not changed between the time of construction approval and final approval.
An existing-system inspection or evaluation and assessment, or a modification, replacement, or upgrade of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system is not required for a remodeling addition or modification to a single-family home if a bedroom is not added. However, a remodeling addition or modification to a single-family home may not cover any part of the existing system or encroach upon a required setback or the unobstructed area. To determine if a setback or the unobstructed area is impacted, the local health department shall review and verify a floor plan and site plan of the proposed remodeling addition or modification to the home submitted by a remodeler which shows the location of the system, including the distance of the remodeling addition or modification to the home from the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system. The local health department may visit the site or otherwise determine the best means of verifying the information submitted. A verification of the location of a system is not an inspection or evaluation and assessment of the system. The review and verification must be completed within 7 business days after receipt by the local health department of a floor plan and site plan. If the review and verification is not completed within such time, the remodeling addition or modification to the single-family home, for the purposes of this paragraph, is approved.

(7) LOT SIZE CALCULATION.—Effective July 1, 2019, when applying the requirements of s. 373.811(2), the department must:
(a) Include portions of a lot subject to an easement or right of entry when determining the size of the lot.

(b) Determine that a hardship exists in accordance with s. 403.201(1)(c) when an applicant for a variance demonstrates that the lot subject to the request is at least 0.85 acres and that other lots in the immediate proximity are at least 1 acre.

(8) USE OF NUTRIENT REMOVING ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.—Effective July 1, 2019, in addition to allowing the use of other department-approved nutrient removing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to meet the requirements of a total maximum daily load or basin management action plan adopted pursuant to s. 403.067 or a reasonable assurance plan or other water quality protection and restoration requirements, the department shall allow the use of National Sanitation Foundation International/American National Standards Institute 245 systems approved by the Public Health and Safety Organization before July 1, 2019.

Section 13. Paragraph (d) of subsection (7) and subsections (8) and (9) of section 381.00651, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

381.00651 Periodic evaluation and assessment of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.—

(7) The following procedures shall be used for conducting evaluations:

(d) Assessment procedure.—All evaluation procedures used
by a qualified contractor shall be documented in the 
environmental health database of the department of Health. The 
qualified contractor shall provide a copy of a written, signed 
evaluation report to the property owner upon completion of the 
evaluation and to the county health department within 30 days 
after the evaluation. The report shall contain the name and 
license number of the company providing the report. A copy of 
the evaluation report shall be retained by the local county 
health department for a minimum of 5 years and until a 
subsequent inspection report is filed. The front cover of the 
report must identify any system failure and include a clear and 
conspicuous notice to the owner that the owner has a right to 
have any remediation of the failure performed by a qualified 
contractor other than the contractor performing the evaluation. 
The report must further identify any crack, leak, improper fit, 
or other defect in the tank, manhole, or lid, and any other 
damaged or missing component; any sewage or effluent visible on 
the ground or discharging to a ditch or other surface water 
body; any downspout, stormwater, or other source of water 
directed onto or toward the system; and any other maintenance 
need or condition of the system at the time of the evaluation 
which, in the opinion of the qualified contractor, would 
possibly interfere with or restrict any future repair or 
modification to the existing system. The report shall conclude 
with an overall assessment of the fundamental operational
condition of the system.

(8) The county health department, in coordination with the department, shall administer any evaluation program on behalf of a county, or a municipality within the county, that has adopted an evaluation program pursuant to this section. In order to administer the evaluation program, the county or municipality, in consultation with the county health department, may develop a reasonable fee schedule to be used solely to pay for the costs of administering the evaluation program. Such a fee schedule shall be identified in the ordinance that adopts the evaluation program. When arriving at a reasonable fee schedule, the estimated annual revenues to be derived from fees may not exceed reasonable estimated annual costs of the program. Fees shall be assessed to the system owner during an inspection and separately identified on the invoice of the qualified contractor. Fees shall be remitted by the qualified contractor to the county health department. The county health department's administrative responsibilities include the following:

(a) Providing a notice to the system owner at least 60 days before the system is due for an evaluation. The notice may include information on the proper maintenance of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.

(b) In consultation with the department of Health, providing uniform disciplinary procedures and penalties for qualified contractors who do not comply with the requirements of
the adopted ordinance, including, but not limited to, failure to provide the evaluation report as required in this subsection to the system owner and the county health department. Only the county health department may assess penalties against system owners for failure to comply with the adopted ordinance, consistent with existing requirements of law.

(9)(a) A county or municipality that adopts an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system evaluation and assessment program pursuant to this section shall notify the Secretary of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health, and the applicable county health department upon the adoption of its ordinance establishing the program.

(b) Upon receipt of the notice under paragraph (a), the department of Environmental Protection shall, within existing resources, notify the county or municipality of the potential use of, and access to, program funds under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund or s. 319 of the Clean Water Act, provide guidance in the application process to receive such moneys, and provide advice and technical assistance to the county or municipality on how to establish a low-interest revolving loan program or how to model a revolving loan program after the low-interest loan program of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This paragraph does not obligate the department of Environmental Protection to provide any county or municipality with money to fund such programs.
(c) The department of Health may not adopt any rule that alters the provisions of this section.

(d) The department of Health must allow county health departments and qualified contractors access to the environmental health database to track relevant information and assimilate data from assessment and evaluation reports of the overall condition of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. The environmental health database must be used by contractors to report each service and evaluation event and by a county health department to notify owners of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems when evaluations are due. Data and information must be recorded and updated as service and evaluations are conducted and reported.

Section 14. Effective July 1, 2019, section 381.00652, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

381.00652 Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems technical advisory committee.—

(1)(a) By August 1, 2019, the department, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall appoint a technical advisory committee to assist in developing rules that will increase the availability of nutrient removing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in the marketplace, including such systems that are cost-effective, low maintenance, and reliable. By July 1, 2020, the committee shall consider and recommend regulatory options, such as fast-track approval,
prequalification, or expedited permitting, to facilitate the introduction and use of nutrient removing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems that have been reviewed and approved by a national agency or organization, such as the National Sanitation Foundation International/American National Standards Institute 245 systems approved by the Public Health and Safety Organization. The department shall use existing and available resources to administer and support the activities of the technical advisory committee.

(b) The committee shall consist of at least five but not more than nine members representing the home building industry, the real estate industry, the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system industry, septic tank contractors, engineers, and local governments. Members shall serve without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement for per diem or travel expenses.

(c) This subsection expires July 1, 2020.

(2) The department shall initiate rulemaking no later than August 1, 2020, considering the recommendations of the technical advisory committee, and adopt rules to increase the availability of cost-effective, low maintenance, and reliable nutrient removing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in the marketplace.

Section 15. Section 381.0068, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
Section 16. Paragraphs (g) of subsection (1) of section 381.0101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

(g) "Primary environmental health program" means those programs determined by the department to be essential for providing basic environmental and sanitary protection to the public. At a minimum, these programs shall include food protection program work and onsite sewage treatment and disposal system evaluations.

Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 403.067, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(7) DEVELOPMENT OF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS.—

(a) Basin management action plans.—

1. In developing and implementing the total maximum daily load for a water body, the department, or the department in conjunction with a water management district, may develop a basin management action plan that addresses some or all of the watersheds and basins tributary to the water body. Such plan must integrate the appropriate management strategies available to the state through existing water quality protection programs to achieve the total maximum daily loads and may provide for...
phased implementation of these management strategies to promote timely, cost-effective actions as provided for in s. 403.151. The plan must establish a schedule implementing the management strategies, establish a basis for evaluating the plan's effectiveness, and identify feasible funding strategies for implementing the plan's management strategies. The management strategies may include regional treatment systems or other public works, where appropriate, and voluntary trading of water quality credits to achieve the needed pollutant load reductions.

2. A basin management action plan must equitably allocate, pursuant to paragraph (6)(b), pollutant reductions to individual basins, as a whole to all basins, or to each identified point source or category of nonpoint sources, as appropriate. For nonpoint sources for which best management practices have been adopted, the initial requirement specified by the plan must be those practices developed pursuant to paragraph (c). When appropriate, the plan may take into account the benefits of pollutant load reduction achieved by point or nonpoint sources that have implemented management strategies to reduce pollutant loads, including best management practices, before the development of the basin management action plan. The plan must also identify the mechanisms that will address potential future increases in pollutant loading.

3. The basin management action planning process is intended to involve the broadest possible range of interested
parties, with the objective of encouraging the greatest amount of cooperation and consensus possible. In developing a basin management action plan, the department shall assure that key stakeholders, including, but not limited to, applicable local governments, water management districts, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, other appropriate state agencies, local soil and water conservation districts, environmental groups, regulated interests, and affected pollution sources, are invited to participate in the process. The department shall hold at least one public meeting in the vicinity of the watershed or basin to discuss and receive comments during the planning process and shall otherwise encourage public participation to the greatest practicable extent. Notice of the public meeting must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which the watershed or basin lies at least not less than 5 days but not more than 15 days before the public meeting. A basin management action plan does not supplant or otherwise alter any assessment made under subsection (3) or subsection (4) or any calculation or initial allocation.

4. Each new or revised basin management action plan shall include:
   a. The appropriate management strategies available through existing water quality protection programs to achieve total maximum daily loads, which may provide for phased implementation
5. The department shall adopt all or any part of a basin management action plan and any amendment to such plan by secretarial order pursuant to chapter 120 to implement the provisions of this section.

6. The basin management action plan must include milestones for implementation and water quality improvement, and an associated water quality monitoring component sufficient to evaluate whether reasonable progress in pollutant load reductions is being achieved over time. An assessment of progress toward these milestones shall be conducted every 5 years, and revisions to the plan shall be made as appropriate. Revisions to the basin management action plan shall be made by the department in cooperation with basin stakeholders. Revisions
7. In accordance with procedures adopted by rule under paragraph (9)(c), basin management action plans, and other pollution control programs under local, state, or federal authority as provided in subsection (4), may allow point or nonpoint sources that will achieve greater pollutant reductions than required by an adopted total maximum daily load or wasteload allocation to generate, register, and trade water quality credits for the excess reductions to enable other sources to achieve their allocation; however, the generation of water quality credits does not remove the obligation of a source or activity to meet applicable technology requirements or adopted best management practices. Such plans must allow trading between NPDES permittees, and trading that may or may not involve NPDES permittees, where the generation or use of the credits involve an entity or activity not subject to department water discharge permits whose owner voluntarily elects to obtain department authorization for the generation and sale of credits.

8. The provisions of the department's rule relating to the equitable abatement of pollutants into surface waters do not apply to water bodies or water body segments for which a basin management plan that takes into account future new or expanded...
activities or discharges has been adopted under this section.

9. The department shall submit to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research the project cost estimates required in sub-subparagraph 4.c., including any septic-to-sewer conversion and septic tank remediation project costs.

Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 489.551, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.551 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(1) "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection Health.

Section 19. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.