

## Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

### **CS/CS/SB 1136 — Regulation of Water Resources**

by Rules Committee; Community Affairs Committee; and Senator Trumbull

The bill revises the qualification requirements a person must meet to take the water well contractor licensure examination. It requires an applicant to have at least two years of experience in constructing, repairing, or abandoning water wells specifically permitted in Florida.

The bill authorizes an authority to whom a water management district has delegated enforcement powers to consistently apply disciplinary guideline rules relating to wells.

The bill includes business entities as possible violators of certain unlawful acts relating to wells. It adds that it is an unlawful act to advertise water well drilling or construction services if the business entity is not owned by a licensed water well contractor or does not employ a full-time water well contractor.

The bill provides that the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system (OSTDS) variance review and advisory committee is not responsible for water well permitting. However, the committee shall consider all requirements of law related to OSTDSs when making recommendations on variance requests for OSTDS permits.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2024.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-0*