A bill to be entitled

An act relating to water resources; providing
legislative intent; creating s. 403.9339, F.S.;
requiring the Department of Environmental Protection
to conduct a comprehensive and quantitative needs-
based overview of this state’s water resources;
specifying requirements for the overview; requiring
the department to submit a report every 5 years to the
Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that water constitutes a
public resource benefitting the entire state, and
WHEREAS, water is an essential element to this state’s
current and future growth, sustainability, and environmental
health, and
WHEREAS, a needs-based water assessment is vital to
successfully plan for this state’s current and future population
growth, and infrastructural and environmental needs, NOW,
THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
Department of Environmental Protection interpret this act, to
the maximum extent practicable, in a manner that provides the
Legislature with a comprehensive overview of this state’s water
infrastructure funding needs, including, but not limited to, its
residential, commercial, environmental, agricultural, and
industrial needs. The department shall coordinate, to the
maximum extent practicable, with private and public sector
entities to produce the report required under s. 403.9339,
Florida Statutes. The department may use any source of
information it deems reasonably reliable as long as the source
is identified in the report.

Section 2. Section 403.9339, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

403.9339 Comprehensive overview of statewide water
resources report.—
(1) The department shall conduct a comprehensive and
quantitative needs-based overview of this state’s water
resources.
(2) To determine the level of need, the overview must
include, but is not limited to, all of the following:
(a) The funds necessary for the infrastructure’s capacity
to meet current and future demands.
(b) The funds necessary to provide for the infrastructure’s
existing and near-future physical condition and to provide
expected levels of service and protection to the public safety.
(c) The funds necessary for the infrastructure to be
operated and maintained in compliance with federal, state, and
local government regulations.
(d) The funds necessary for the infrastructure to be able
to prevent or protect against significant multi-hazard threats
and incidents, and its ability to quickly return to a pre-hazard
or pre-threat level of service.
(e) The replacement costs for infrastructure that is
nearing, at, or exceeding its estimated service life.
(f) The costs of compliance with legislative intent that sufficient water be available for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and for natural systems, and that adverse effects of competition for water supplies be avoided. 

(g) The infrastructure needs and funds necessary to protect, restore, and enhance this state’s water. 

(h) The infrastructure, including stormwater systems, needs and funds necessary to provide for adequate flood protection. 

(3) The overview must be based on a short-term, 5-year planning period and a long-term, 20-year planning period and must include, but need not be limited to, all of the following:

(a) Water supply infrastructure, including, at a minimum, water supply development projects, water resource development projects, and water conservation.

(b) Water quality protection and restoration, including, at a minimum, septic system conversion, basin management action plans under s. 403.067(7)(a), and surface water improvement and management plans under s. 373.453.

(c) Wastewater infrastructure.

(d) Stormwater infrastructure.

(e) Flood control infrastructure.

(f) Environmental restoration.

(4) The overview must also identify potential funding options to meet the anticipated demand on water resources in this state which are necessary to comply with laws and regulations governing subsection (1), to comply with the Legislature’s intent that sufficient water be available for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and the natural systems, and to avoid adverse effects of competition for water
supplies. The overview of funding options may include a review of public and private funding options used in this state, other states, or other countries.

(5) Beginning January 1, 2022, and every 5 years thereafter, the department shall submit a report of the findings of the overview to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.