1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to private provider inspections of 3 onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems; amending s. 381.0065, F.S.; authorizing private provider 4 5 inspections of onsite sewage treatment and disposal 6 systems under certain conditions; prohibiting the 7 Department of Environmental Protection from charging 8 certain inspection and permit fees; specifying 9 requirements for private providers and onsite sewage treatment and disposal system owners and authorized 10 11 contractors; authorizing the department to audit the 12 performance of such inspections; providing audit 13 conditions and construction; providing an effective 14 date. 15 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 17 18 Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 381.0065, 19 Florida Statutes, to read: 20 381.0065 Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems; 21 regulation.-22 (8) PRIVATE PROVIDER INSPECTIONS.— 23 Notwithstanding any other law, ordinance, or policy, 24 the owner of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system or a

Page 1 of 5

contractor upon the owner's written authorization may hire a

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private provider to perform an inspection of the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system and pay the private provider directly if the inspection is the subject of a written contract between the private provider or the private provider's firm and the owner or the authorized contractor.

- (b) The department may not charge an inspection fee for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system inspection performed by a private provider under written contract with an owner or authorized contractor in accordance with this section and department rules.
- (c) Onsite sewage treatment and disposal system inspections may only be performed by a private provider or an authorized representative of a private provider who is:
- 1. An environmental health professional certified under s.
 381.0101;
- 2. A master septic contractor registered under part III of chapter 489;
- 3. A professional engineer licensed under chapter 471 and has passed all parts of the Onsite Sewage Treatment Disposal

 System Accelerated Certification Training; or
- 4. Working under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer and has passed all parts of the Onsite Sewage Treatment Disposal System Accelerated Certification Training.
 - (d) An owner or authorized contractor using a private

Page 2 of 5

provider for an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system inspection must provide notice to the department at the time of permit application or by 2 p.m. local time, 2 business days before the first scheduled inspection by the department. The notice must include all of the following information:

- 1. For each private provider or authorized representative performing the inspection:
- a. Name and firm name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Professional license or certification number.
 - c. Qualification statement or resume.

2. An acknowledgment from the owner in substantially the following form:

AN ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM INSPECTION THAT

IS THE SUBJECT OF THE ENCLOSED PERMIT APPLICATION. I UNDERSTAND

THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT PERFORM THE REQUIRED ONSITE SEWAGE

TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM INSPECTION TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE

WITH THE APPLICABLE CODES, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY

LAW. INSTEAD, THE INSPECTION WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE LICENSED

OR CERTIFIED PRIVATE PROVIDER IDENTIFIED IN THE APPLICATION. BY

EXECUTING THIS FORM, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE MADE INQUIRY

REGARDING THE COMPETENCE OF THE LICENSED OR CERTIFIED PRIVATE

PROVIDER AND AM SATISFIED THAT MY INTERESTS ARE ADEQUATELY

Page 3 of 5

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PROTECTED. I AGREE TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE DEPARTMENT FROM ANY CLAIMS ARISING FROM MY USE OF THE LICENSED OR CERTIFIED PRIVATE PROVIDER IDENTIFIED IN THE APPLICATION TO PERFORM THE ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM INSPECTION THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE ENCLOSED PERMIT APPLICATION.

(e)

If an owner or authorized contractor makes any changes to the listed private provider or the service to be performed by the private provider, the owner or the authorized contractor must update the notice to reflect the change within 1 business day after the change. The change of an authorized representative identified in the permit application does not require a revision of the permit and the department may not charge a fee for making such change.

The department may audit the performance of an onsite

sewage treatment and disposal system inspection by a private provider. However, the same private provider may not be audited more than four times in a month unless the department determines that an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system inspected by the private provider should not have passed inspection. Work on a building, a structure, or an onsite sewage treatment and

 $\underline{\text{private provider}}$ if the owner or authorized contractor has $\underline{\text{given}}$

disposal system may proceed after inspection and approval by a

notice of the inspection pursuant to paragraph (d) and,

Page 4 of 5

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101	subsequent to such inspection and approval, such work may not be
102	delayed for completion of an inspection audit by the department.
103	Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Page 5 of 5

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