

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to advanced wastewater treatment;
 3 providing legislative findings; requiring the
 4 Department of Environmental Protection, in
 5 consultation with the water management districts and
 6 sewage disposal facilities, to submit to the Governor
 7 and Legislature, by specified dates, reports on
 8 certain permitted sewage disposal facilities in the
 9 state, a priority ranking process for implementing
 10 advanced wastewater treatment upgrades at such
 11 facilities, and the implementation status of such
 12 upgrades; providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the discharge
 17 of inadequately treated wastewater and aging sewage disposal
 18 facilities compromise the quality of the environment, including
 19 freshwater, brackish water, and nearshore and offshore salt
 20 waters, and threatens the quality of life and local economies in
 21 the state that depend on those resources. The Legislature also
 22 finds that the only practical and cost-effective way to
 23 fundamentally improve wastewater management is to require
 24 advanced wastewater treatment or better at all sewage disposal
 25 facilities with a permitted capacity of greater than 1 million

26 | gallons per day in the state.

27 | (2) In order to prioritize the upgrade of sewage disposal
28 | facilities, by December 31, 2024, the Department of
29 | Environmental Protection, in consultation with the water
30 | management districts and wastewater facilities, shall submit to
31 | the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
32 | the House of Representatives a report detailing all of the
33 | following for all sewage disposal facilities with a permitted
34 | capacity of greater than 1 million gallons per day in the state:

35 | (a) Year of construction for the facility and any
36 | maintenance or upgrades.

37 | (b) Total permitted volume of water treated daily.

38 | (c) Actual permitted volume of water treated daily over
39 | the most recent 1 year and 5 year averages.

40 | (d) Current level of treatment, including concentrations
41 | for each of the following:

42 | 1. Biochemical oxygen demand.

43 | 2. Suspended solids.

44 | 3. Total nitrogen.

45 | 4. Total phosphorus.

46 | 5. 1,4-dioxane.

47 | 6. Perfluorooctanoic acid.

48 | 7. Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid.

49 | 8. Molybdenum.

50 | 9. Other contaminants of emerging concern as determined by

51 the department.

52 (e) Estimated total pollutant loading based on permitted
 53 volume and concentrations.

54 (f) Disposal methods and the volume discharged to any
 55 receiving waterbodies, if applicable, pursuant to s.
 56 403.064(17), Florida Statutes.

57 (g) Impairment status of any receiving waterbodies within
 58 the watershed.

59 (h) Implementation status of total maximum daily loads and
 60 basin management action plans and recommended reductions for
 61 load allocations and wasteload allocations for pollutants of
 62 concern.

63 (i) Total volume and concentration of any permitted and
 64 nonpermitted wastewater spills since 2010.

65 (3) By December 31, 2025, the department, in consultation
 66 with the water management districts and sewage disposal
 67 facilities, shall submit to the Governor, the President of the
 68 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report
 69 outlining a priority ranking process to upgrade all sewage
 70 disposal facilities in the state to advanced waste treatment by
 71 2035, based on all of the following:

72 (a) Overall environmental benefit of a project based on:

73 1. Water quality in receiving waterbodies, including
 74 impairment status;

75 2. Severity and duration of documented algal blooms;

- 76 3. Loss of submerged vegetation;
 77 4. Death of fish and wildlife;
 78 5. Public health advisories;
 79 6. Quantity and concentration of permitted and
 80 nonpermitted spills; and
 81 7. Risk of failure.
- 82 (b) Estimated reduction in nutrient and pollutant loads
 83 with advanced waste treatment.
- 84 (c) An explanation of additional projects necessary to
 85 meet any adopted total maximum daily loads and basin management
 86 action plans if upgrading to advanced treatment is not
 87 sufficient.
- 88 (d) Cost-effectiveness as determined by a planning-level
 89 cost estimate.
- 90 (e) Potential financial assistance available, including
 91 the water quality improvement grant program under s. 403.0673,
 92 Florida Statutes, and availability of local matching funds.
- 93 (f) Project readiness and the estimated date of
 94 completion.
- 95 (4) By June 30, 2026, the department, in consultation with
 96 the water management districts and sewage disposal facilities,
 97 shall submit to the Governor, President of the Senate, and
 98 Speaker of the House of Representatives a progress report on the
 99 status of upgrades established under subsection (3) for each
 100 sewage disposal facility with a permitted capacity of greater

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101 than 1 million gallons per day in the state. The report must
102 include a list of the sewage disposal facilities with a
103 permitted capacity of greater than 1 million gallons per day
104 required to upgrade to advanced wastewater treatment, the
105 preliminary cost estimates for the upgrades, a projected
106 timeline of the dates by which the upgrades will begin and be
107 completed, and the date by which operations of the upgraded
108 sewage disposal facility will begin.

109 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.