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PROTECTING FLORIDA TOGETHER

2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP: CONTINUING HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT



**Blue-Green Algae Task Force
June 20, 2023**

2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

HOUSE BILL (HB) 1379



HB 1379 supports the goals of Executive Order 23-06 (Achieving *Even More* Now for Florida's Environment) and builds on our historic investments and accomplishments over the last four years in advancing the protection of the state's environmental resources.

2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

HB 1379: PRIORITIZING PROTECTION OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON (IRL)



Highlights of EO 23-06

Requires DEP to identify and prioritize strategies and projects to expedite water quality restoration in the IRL through:

- Establishment of the IRL Protection Program.
- Enhanced water quality monitoring.
- New polices to reduce nutrient contributions to the IRL from point and nonpoint sources, including septic tanks and wastewater facilities.

Provisions of HB 1379

Enhances protection of the IRL by:

- ✓ Creating the IRL Protection Program.
- ✓ Requiring a comprehensive water quality monitoring program.
- ✓ Creating new requirements and prohibitions on septic systems within the IRL watershed.
- ✓ Evaluating BMAPs every five years to identify further necessary load reductions.

Also, in support of restoration efforts, \$100 million is included in the FY 2023-24 budget for water quality projects to benefit the IRL.

2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

HB 1379: STRENGTHENING WATER QUALITY PROTECTIONS & BMAPs



Highlights of EO 23-06

Reinforces the state's commitment to strengthen BMAPs and ensure meaningful progress toward restoring water quality.

Provisions of HB 1379

- ☑ Strengthens BMAPs by requiring local governments to identify the projects necessary to achieve nutrient reduction goals, including agricultural nonpoint sources.
- ☑ Expands and improves water quality protections within a BMAP or Reasonable Assurance Plan through more stringent requirements for septic systems and wastewater treatment facilities.

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HB 1379: EXPANDING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



Highlights of EO 23-06

Directs the expansion of the existing Wastewater Grant Program to address impacts from nonpoint sources such as stormwater and agricultural runoff and from aging wastewater infrastructure that increases nutrient loading to surface and groundwater.

Provisions of HB1379

- ☒ **Creates the new Water Quality Improvement Grant Program which expands the types of eligible projects including stormwater, agriculture and additional wastewater projects, and expands geographic areas of eligibility to include all areas with waterbodies not attaining water quality standards.**

2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

HB 1379: IMPROVING COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING



Highlights of EO 23-06

Directs DEP to work with the Department of Economic Opportunity to improve local government long-term comprehensive planning that ensures sustainable growth while protecting our natural resources.

Provisions of HB1379

- ☒ **Improves local government long-term comprehensive planning to support environmental protection and restoration by requiring comprehensive plans to determine the feasibility of providing sewer instead of septic in certain areas and upgrading facilities to advanced wastewater treatment.**

2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

CLEAN WATERWAYS ACT RULEMAKING EFFORTS



CHAPTER 62-6, F.A.C., STANDARDS FOR ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

- Ratified during the 2023 Legislative Session.

CHAPTER 62-600, F.A.C., DOMESTIC WASTEWATER FACILITIES

- Ratified during the 2023 Legislative Session.

CHAPTER 62-330, F.A.C., ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITTING (STORMWATER)

- DEP filed the Rule Certification Package for this rulemaking with the Department of State on April 28, 2023, and it was adopted on May 18, 2023.
- DEP will seek ratification of this rule revision during the 2024 Legislative Session.



2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

FRAMEWORK FOR FREEDOM BUDGET FOR FY 2023-24



EVERGLADES RESTORATION AND WATER QUALITY

\$1.6 BILLION

\$694 million | EVERGLADES

\$796 million | TARGETED WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

\$50 million | SPRINGS RESTORATION



2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

FRAMEWORK FOR FREEDOM BUDGET FOR FY 2023-24



EVERGLADES RESTORATION

The Framework for Freedom Budget includes \$694 million for Everglades Restoration projects, including:

\$356.5 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

\$58 million for Restoration Strategies.

\$64 million for the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir to reduce harmful discharges and send more clean water south to the Everglades.

\$50 million for specific projects designed to achieve the greatest reductions in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.

2023 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

FRAMEWORK FOR FREEDOM BUDGET FOR FY 2023-24



TARGETED WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Framework for Freedom Budget includes \$796 million for targeted water quality improvements, including:

\$200 million for the expanded Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

\$25 million for water quality improvements in the Caloosahatchee watershed.

\$100 million for priority projects to improve water quality in the IRL.

\$20 million to address water quality and coral reef restoration in Biscayne Bay.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

GRANT PROGRAM



- **DEP's Innovative Technology Grant Program provides funding to develop and test technologies designed to predict, prevent and mitigate harmful algal blooms (HABs).**
- **Key funding considerations: new, scalable and ready to use technology or application of known technology.**
- **In the past four years, \$45 million has been appropriated for over 40 innovative technology projects for harmful algal bloom management and response.**
- **The Framework for Freedom budget continues this progress with an additional \$10 million for the grant program and \$25 million for HAB response, including \$20 million to competitively procure water quality treatment technologies to combat harmful algal blooms in Lake Okeechobee.**

Algal Reduction/Removal

- **Involves a combination of mechanical, chemical and biological methods to address the presence of algae and its associated toxins.**

Nutrient Reduction

- **Reducing the supply of nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorous, to help decrease the intensity and duration of harmful algal blooms.**

Prediction

- **Predicting when and where harmful algal blooms occur with models and data to mitigate damage before a bloom happens.**

Prevention

- **Proactive strategies aimed at mitigating or reducing the occurrence and impact of harmful algal blooms.**

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

STATEWIDE CONTRACTS



To provide local communities with the ability to rapidly respond to harmful algal blooms (HABs) that might occur, DEP has established five statewide contracts for HAB cleanup and prevention. These agreements are in place to expedite the procurement and vetting process so that technologies can be deployed as quickly as possible, protecting public health and safety.



THANK YOU

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