

CHAPTER 2014-79

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 536

An act relating to reclaimed water; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study in coordination with the stakeholders on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water and to submit a report based upon such study; providing requirements for the report; requiring the department to provide the public an opportunity for input and for public comment; requiring that the report be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water.

(1) The Department of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the stakeholders, shall conduct a comprehensive study and submit a report on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water in this state.

(2) The report must:

(a) Identify factors that prohibit or complicate the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water and recommend how those factors can be mitigated or eliminated.

(b) Identify measures that would lead to the efficient use of reclaimed water.

(c) Identify the environmental, engineering, public health, public perception, and fiscal constraints of such an expansion, including utility rate structures for reclaimed water.

(d) Identify areas in the state where traditional water supply sources are limited and the use of reclaimed water, stormwater, or excess surface water for irrigation or other purposes is necessary.

(e) Recommend permit incentives, such as extending current authorizations for long-term consumptive use permits for all entities that substitute reclaimed water for traditional water sources that become unavailable or otherwise cost prohibitive.

(f) Determine the feasibility, benefit, and cost estimate of the infrastructure needed to construct regional storage features on public or private lands for reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water, including the collection and delivery mechanisms for beneficial uses such as

agricultural irrigation, power generation, public water supply, wetland restoration, groundwater recharge, and waterbody base flow augmentation.

(3) The department shall:

(a) Hold two public meetings, at a minimum, to gather input on the study.

(b) Provide an opportunity for the public to submit written comments before submitting the report.

(4) The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2015.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor June 13, 2014.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 13, 2014.