



Florida Stormwater Association
Priority Issues – January 15, 2016

Information on the status of specific bills may be found on the FSA Legislative Issues page.

Water Policy/Springs (HB 7005/SB 552) – Support PASSED LEGISLATURE 1/14/16

HB 7005/SB 552 is the leadership's version of the 2016 Water Legislation. The House and Senate bills are identical. Requires FDEP to form working groups composed of stakeholders within certain springsheds who are responsible for preparing scientific information on nutrients, public education plans and projects to reduce nutrient impacts in all spring areas where sewage treatment and disposal systems represent a source of excess nitrate-nitrite that must be controlled to meet TMDLs; authorizes FDEP to award funds for certain septic tank issues contingent on an appropriation. Does NOT provide for a statewide water commission or additional limitations on local government concerning nutrient loadings from septic tanks.

Infrastructure Sales Tax for Water Quality (HB 995/SB 346) - Support

Adds an additional use of the local option infrastructure sales tax. Provides that a county may levy a discretionary sales surtax of 0.5 or 1 percent for the purpose of funding capital restoration of natural water bodies for public use, including tributaries, canals, stormwater conveyance systems, and channels connected to natural water bodies. The proceeds from the tax may be used only for dredging operations. The ordinance enacting the tax must be approved by a referendum.

Environmental Control (HB 589/SB 1052) - Monitor

Prohibits WMDs from modifying or reducing consumptive use permit allocations under certain circumstances and directs districts to adopt rules providing water conservation incentives; directs DEP to adopt classification to protect surface waters used for treated potable water supply; authorizes use of land set-asides & land use modifications in water quality credit trading; directs DEP to establish rules concerning use of surface waters for public water supply.

Perils of Flood (HB 929/SB 584) – Support

Authorizes the Division of Emergency Management to administer a matching grant program that provides up to \$50M annually in technical and financial assistance grants to local governments to implement certain flood risk reduction policies and projects, subject to funding in Appropriations Bill.

Other Measures

10/2 General Permit Revisions (support) - Measures to correct some of the deficiencies being realized in the 2012 legislation that granted a statewide general permit for construction projects of less than 10 acres with less than 2 acres of impervious area, have not yet been filed, although minor revisions are contained in the HB 7005/SB 552.

SWU Fee Corrections (monitor) – Legislation to correct decisions of the lower courts and require schools and state agencies to pay SWU fees are not likely to be introduced. Further, members should be aware that legislation to confirm those lower court decisions (the opposite of the FSA and League of Cities position) may be introduced.

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