



## Water Quality Legislation

*The Florida House is committed to clean and safe water in our state. Below is a sampling of bills the Legislature passed to achieve proper water quality and protect our most precious natural resources.*

**Watershed Restoration Act:** SB 2282 directed the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to assess and identify impaired waters, develop water quality restoration targets (total maximum daily loads – TMDLs), and develop implementation plans for TMDLs. (1999)

**South Florida Restoration:** SB 1672 appointed the South Florida Water Management District as the local sponsor of project components for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Kissimmee River restoration, and other critical projects for the south Florida ecosystem restoration and provided project requirements. (1999)

**Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force:** SB 2038 established the taskforce for the purpose of researching, monitoring, controlling, and mitigating red tide and other harmful algal blooms in state waters. (1999)

**Lake Okeechobee Protection Act:** HB 991 created a phased, comprehensive, and innovative program designed to restore and protect the lake by improving water quality and implementing long-term solutions through a variety of specific components. (2000)

**Everglades Restoration Investment Act:** HB 221 provided funding for the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund, which was created the same year; enhanced oversight of and accountability for CERP financial commitments; and required state-federal agreements for CERP project components. (2000)

**Wastewater Disposal/Ocean Outfalls:** SB 1302 prohibited the construction of new ocean outfalls and the expansion of existing ocean outfalls for domestic wastewater discharge, and prohibited existing discharge of domestic wastewater through ocean outfall after December 31, 2025. (2008)

**Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs):** HB 547 required the development of BMAPs, which are restoration plans for waterbodies with TMDLs. (2008)

**Wastewater:** SB 550 authorized the issuance of bonds to finance the management of sewage facilities in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern; provided additional requirements for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in Monroe County; prohibited the discharge of domestic wastewater into surface waters of Monroe County; and prohibited the land application of septage beginning January 1, 2016. (2010)

**Restoration Strategies:** HB 7065 established an \$880 million Everglades Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan. (2013)

**Water Quality Credit Trading:** HB 713 authorized DEP to implement water quality credit trading in adopted BMAPs. (2013)

**Northern Everglades and Estuaries:** SB 552 updated and restructured the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program to reflect and build upon the completion of the BMAPs for Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. (2013)

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# HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE RAY RODRIGUES, MAJORITY LEADER

**Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act:** SB 552 created the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act to expedite the restoration and protection of water quality and water flow in the aquifer and Outstanding Florida Springs; required DEP to delineate priority focus areas and develop nutrient TMDLs and BMAPs for certain Outstanding Florida Springs by July 1, 2018; and required the water management districts to create and adopt minimum flows and levels and, under certain conditions, a recovery or prevention strategy for Outstanding Florida Springs by July 1, 2017. (2016)

**Spring Protection:** HB 1075 authorized the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish, by rule, protection zones restricting the speed and operation of vessels to protect and prevent harm to springs, and specified that harm included negative impacts to water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wetlands, and aquatic and wetland-dependent species. (2016)

**Legacy Florida Act:** HB 989 created an annual dedicated funding source for the restoration of the Everglades, springs, and Lake Apopka, and for Everglades restoration projects, directed the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to give preference to projects that reduce harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. (2016)

**Community Small Sewer Construction Assistance:** HB 525 expanded the definition of the term “financially disadvantaged small community” to include a county or special district that falls under the same population and per capita annual income parameters as currently required under the Act, thereby allowing additional counties and special districts to qualify for funding assistance to construct sewer systems. (2016)

**Public Notice of Pollution Act:** SB 1018 created the Public Notice of Pollution Act (act) to require an owner or operator of an installation where a reportable pollution release occurs to provide DEP information reported to the State Watch Office as required by rule, permit, order, or variance, within 24 hours after discovery; required DEP to publish on a publically accessible website all notices of reportable pollution releases within 24 hours after receipt; and provided civil penalties for owners or operators failing to provide the required notice. (2017)

**Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir Project (EAA Project):** SB 10 required the SFWMD to accelerate the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) EAA Project to provide additional water storage for Lake Okeechobee regulatory discharges that would otherwise go to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; provided for additional options to reduce damaging discharges to the estuaries; and provided for phased funding increases for Everglades restoration projects. (2017)