

TAMPA BAY

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION WATCHLIST



The following list includes proposed Florida legislation that, if passed, could positively or negatively affect the Tampa Bay estuary and watershed. The list is informational only.

HB/SB #	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
HB 371 / SB 910	Management and Storage of Surface Waters	<p>Amends Florida Water Resources Act to exempt from regulation,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental habitat creation - Restoration - Enhancement activities, or - Water quality improvements on agricultural or government lands <p>Persons acting under an exemption will no longer need to provide written notice to the applicable department, usually the Water Management District. The department no longer needs to conduct a case-by-case analysis to determine if an exemption applies. Every action under an exemption requires net increase in wetland habitat.</p>
HB 111 / SB 1170	Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies	<p>Current legislation studying sea level impact on coastal building zone will be updated to include sea level rise as a major factor. The bill uses 2017 NOAA data to determine what areas will be impacted by tidal flooding within the next 50 years</p> <p>Adds erosion as an issue addressed by the studies.</p> <p>Allows the study to review issues as "discrete or compound natural hazard events" instead of single events. This allows a more comprehensive view of impacts on infrastructure instead of individually impactful events.</p>
HB 207 / SB 592	Notice of Contaminated Water Systems	<p>Requires notice via text message of water contamination. This notice must contain the date of the findings of contamination, the levels of contamination, and the date of restoration of potable water.</p>
HB 177 / SB 172	Safe Waterways Act	<p>Improves public notification when beach waters, canals, intra-coastalways and public bathing places are impaired by fecal indicator bacteria.</p> <p>When public waters are under these hazardous conditions, access will be prevented and health advisory signs must be in place.</p>
HB 827 / SB 458	Wastewater Grants	<p>Allows wastewater grant program funds to be used for impaired water bodies to reduce total maximum daily loads.</p> <p>Includes Hillsborough River Basin, Tampa Bay Basin, Alafia River, Manatee River Basin, Little Manatee River Basin, Peace River Basin, Withlacoochee River Basin, Springs Coast Basin</p>

HB 423 / SB 1538	Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force	Requires inspection of sewage treatment and disposal systems Pollutant load reductions must meet requirements in Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) Considers increasingly higher pollutant loads Requires reevaluation of mitigation and elimination strategies
HB 527 / SB 1484	Office of the Blue Economy	This bill creates an administrative office that regulates the marine economy. The office will promote the responsible capitalization of ocean and coastal resources. Because a large part of Florida's economy is based on ocean and coastal resources, the bill seeks to balance protection of the resources with economic output. The office would support upcoming research to accomplish the office's goals. The office would promote sustainability and protect the environment to maintain the economic viability of the marine resources in the future.
HB 475 / SB 358	Residential Graywater System Tax Credits	Provides a tax credit to developers and homebuilders for certain graywater systems purchased during the taxable year.
HB 363 / SB 336	Regulation of Single-use Plastic Products	Allows Coastal Communities to implement single-use plastic product regulation pilot programs. Requires Florida Department of Environmental Protection to update their report on regulation of a range of disposable plastic bags.
SB 498	Preemption of Recyclable and Polystyrene Materials	Removes the preemption of local laws regulating auxiliary containers, wrappings, disposable plastic bags, and the use or sale of polystyrene products to FDACS.
HB 1427 / SB 506	Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan	Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a 3 year Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan. This plan includes statewide education and outreach and will promote markets for recycling materials. Provide recommendations to reinstate the Recycling and Education Grant Program, and other means of providing local government assistance.
HB 557 / SB 602	Land Acquisition Trust Fund	Provides an annual appropriation of \$20 million to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act. The Act protects headwaters, including that of Alafia and Hillsborough.
HB 439 / SB 1604	Land Use and Development Regulations	Removes or amends statutory barriers to urban sprawl. For example, redefining density to be based on number of residential units alone instead of resident population. Generally amends land use statutes to be broader and rely on specific. Amends the comprehensive plan and land development regulations to Local governments must accept Special Magistrate recommendations under FLUEDRA

HB 1515 / SB 170	Local Ordinances	Requires "Business Impact Estimates" (BIE) before passing an ordinance. The BIE must: estimate direct economic impact, identify new fees, estimate regulatory costs, estimate number of impacted businesses. Requires suspension of ordinances challenged in court if they are preempted, arbitrary, or unreasonable.
HB 41 / SB 856	Land Development Initiative and Referendum Processes	Prohibits initiatives and referendum processes for development orders and amendments to land development regulations.
HB 957 / SB 970	State Renewable Energy Goals	Prohibits the drilling ... or production of petroleum products on the lands and waters of the state. Prohibits building of new structures to drill... or produce petroleum products on the lands or waters of the state. Sets renewable energy goals including, 100% renewable energy by 2050, net zero carbon emissions statewide by 2051, and interim goals to achieve these final goals.
HB 979 / SB 1072	Deepwater Port Dredging	Requires the permitting process for deepwater port dredging to determine the adverse impacts to the natural habitat.
HB 1003 / SB 1230	Fill Material for Reclamation Activities	Requires DEP to approve reclamation and restoration activities on submerged lands where fill material is deposited below the water line.
HB 1405 / SB 880	Biosolids	Allows DEP to provide grants to projects converting wastewater to biosolids. Prevents the use of biosolids in watersheds of impaired waterbodies unless the permit applicant proves that the biosolids will not add to the nutrient load of the impaired waterbody.
HB 661 / SB 1420	Sanitary Sewer Lateral Inspection Program	Authorizing counties and municipalities, respectively, to access sanitary sewer laterals within their jurisdictions for specified purposes; requiring counties and municipalities to notify private property owners within a specified timeframe if the county or municipality intends to access the owner's sanitary sewer lateral; specifying requirements for counties and municipalities repair work; authorizing a program established by a county or a municipality to evaluate and rehabilitate sanitary sewer laterals on residential and commercial properties to use state or local funds allocated for environmental preservation or the protection of water quality, etc.
HB 1197 / SB 1240	Land and Water Management	Prohibits counties and municipalities from adopting laws, regulations, rules, or policies relating to water quality or quantity, pollution control, pollutant discharge prevention or removal, and wetlands; preempting such regulation to the state; repealing a provision relating to land management review teams.

HB 1191 / SB 1258	Use of Phosphogypsum	Authorizes DOT to: (1) use phosphogypsum in road construction and paving material; and (2) conduct a required suitability study. Prohibits phosphogypsum placed in specified stack systems from being regulated as solid waste under certain circumstances.
HB 1079 / SB 734	Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessments	Authorizes DEP to provide grants to coastal counties for saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments; requires DEP to update comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability & sea level rise data, post certain assessment information on website, & provide cost-share funding for grants; exempts certain counties from cost-share funding.
HB 1149	Carbon Sequestration	Requires DACS to conduct study on carbon sequestration activities & programs & submit report to Legislature by specified date; provides appropriation of \$500,000
HJR 1157 / SJR 1234	Hunting and Fishing	Proposes amendment to State Constitution to preserve in perpetuity hunting & fishing as public right;
HB 1181 / SB 724	Seagrass Restoration	Establishes Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative within DEP; requires creation of 10-year Florida Seagrass Restoration Plan
HB 1229 / SB 1298	Endangered and Threatened Species	Allows the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to continue to protect species listed as threatened or endangered even if they are removed from federal classification
HB 1379 / SB 1632	Pollutant Load Reduction	Revises & creates various provisions under DEP jurisdiction relating to groundwater & wastewater capital improvement schedules in local government comprehensive plans; Indian River Lagoon & watershed protection, research, & water quality monitoring; onsite sewage treatment & disposal systems; transfer of specified funds from DEP to WMDs; basin management action plans; Outstanding Florida Springs; legislative budget requests; wastewater grant program; sewage disposal facilities; & ratification of specified rules.
SB 1640	Installation of Waterway Markers	Revising the application requirements for marking certain waters of this state; requiring all waterway markers to be affixed to certain structures or buoys beginning on a specified date; requiring state and local governmental entities to conform to such requirements by a specified date, etc.
HB 561 / SB 100	Mangrove Replanting and Restoration	Requires Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate rules addressing erosion, barrier islands, public awareness about mangrove replanting and restoration, and conducting review of public and private property important to mangroves.
HB 1167 / SB 1702	Mitigation Credits	Allows the release of mitigation credits when the department or water management district finds that the standards will be met soon or neighboring basins are available for use in an area without available credits.