

MEMORANDUM

To: SEFLUC

From: Edward de la Parte and Nicolas Porter

Date: March 5, 2025

RE: 2025 Legislation – SEFLUC Update

The following is a summary of legislation which may be of interest to the Southeast Florida Utility Council (“SEFLUC”). A summary of proposed changes and an analysis of impacts to SEFLUC are presented for each bill. In some cases, because of the length of the bill, the analysis may be limited to only those provisions impacting SEFLUC. In the event a more extensive summary and analysis is required, a separate memo addressing the specific legislation can be prepared upon request.

The 2025 Regular Session begins March 4 and ends May 2.

Speaker of the House – Daniel Perez (Miami)

Senate President – Ben Albritton (Wauchula)

List of Bills Contained in Memo:

1. **HB 11/SB 202 – Municipal Water and Sewer Rates (Robinson/Jones)**
2. **HB 73/SB 156 – Safe Waterways Act (Gossett-Seidman/Rodriguez)**
3. **SB 330/HB 419 – Residential Utility Disconnections (Berman/Tendrich)**
4. **HB 341 – Identification Cards for Public Works Employees (Woodson)**
5. **SB 462/HB 567 – Department of Transportation (DiCeglie/McFarland)**
6. **HB 651/SB 700 – Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Tuck/Truenow)**
7. **HB 661/SB 1846 – One Water Approach Toward the State’s Water Supply (Albert/Truenow)**
8. **HB 691/SB 1228 – Springs Restoration (Conerly/McClain)**
9. **HB 739/SB 1436 – Sanitary and Storm Water System Standards (Grow/McClain)**
10. **SB 810 – Stormwater Management Systems (Burgess)**
11. **HB 857/SB 1386 – Assault or Battery on a Utility Worker (Kincart Johnson/Yarborough)**
12. **HB 861/SB 978 – Advanced Wastewater Treatment (Cross/Berman)**
13. **HB 1123/SB 1784 – Sewer Collection Systems (Cassel/Pizzo)**
14. **SB 7002/HB 1169 – Water Management Districts (ENR Committee/Conerly)**
15. **HB 1187/SB 1208 – Service Lateral Assessment and Rehabilitation (Nix/Truenow)**
16. **HB 1523/SB 1704 – Utility Services (Busatta/Calatayud)**
17. **HB 1575/SB 1646 – Water Quality Improvements (Driskell/Berman)**

Bill Summaries and Status

1. HB 11/SB 202 Municipal Water and Sewer Rates (Robinson/Jones)

Summary:

- Any municipality providing water or sewer service to customers in another municipality using facilities located in the recipient municipality must charge the same rates and fees to the recipient municipality customers as within its own municipal boundaries.
- Essentially the same as 2024 HB 47, which failed to pass.
- SB 202 includes definitions of “Facility” which includes intake station, pumping station, or well, but excludes pipes, tanks, or conduits.

Status:

HB 11

12/06/24 HOUSE Filed
01/06/25 HOUSE Referred to Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee;
Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Commerce Committee
 HOUSE Now in Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee
03/03/25 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Economic Infrastructure
Subcommittee, 03/05/25, 10:15 am, 102 H

SB 202

01/13/25 SENATE Filed
01/29/25 SENATE Referred to Regulated Industries; Community Affairs; Rules

2. HB 73/SB 156 – Safe Waterways Act (Gossett-Seidman/Rodriguez)

Summary:

- Modified version of 2024 HB 165, which was vetoed by the Governor.
- Requires report by DOH on bacteriological sampling of beach waters and public bathing places, recommendation by DOH and DEP regarding transfer of sampling from DOH to DEP, and continuing role of county health departments in collection and tracking of bacteriological data, and interagency agreement between DOH and DEP regarding coordination and transfer of authority.
- Requires DEP to adopt rules requiring owners of beach waters and bathing places to notify DEP and resample after detection of an established standard.
- Requires DEP to immediately issue health advisories and require closure of beach waters and public bathing places that fail to meet standard if determined necessary to protect health, safety and welfare.
- Requires local governments to immediately notify DEP of an incident that may affect the quality of beach waters or public bathing places within their jurisdictions.

- Local governments responsible for posting and maintaining health advisory signs prescribed by DEP.
- Establishes public statewide interagency database for reporting of fecal indicator bacteria data for beach waters and public bathing places.

Status:

HB 73

12/27/24 HOUSE Filed
01/15/25 HOUSE Referred to Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee; Budget Committee; State Affairs Committee
HOUSE Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

SB 156

01/09/25 SENATE Filed
01/24/25 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

3. SB 330/HB 419 – Residential Utility Disconnections (Berman/Tendrich)

Summary:

- Prohibits utility disconnections when heat index is above 90, temperature below 32, or during state of emergency, and waives reconnection fees under those circumstances
- Forbids disconnections on Friday, weekends, state holidays, days preceding state holidays
- Requires notices of disconnection in multiple languages, and through multiple communication methods
- Disconnection policy must be provided to customers at time of service
- Prohibits disconnections for accounts less than 60 days overdue
- Civil penalties and attorneys fees for violation

SB 330

01/27/25 SENATE Filed
02/03/25 SENATE Referred to Regulated Industries; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

HB 419

02/05/25 HOUSE Filed
02/12/25 HOUSE Referred to Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee; Commerce Committee
HOUSE Now in Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee

4. HB 341 – Identification Cards for Public Works Employees (Woodson)

Summary:

- Requires Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to prepare a report by January 1, 2026 regarding the potential issuance of identification cards for public works employees as first responders.

HB 341

02/03/25 HOUSE Filed
02/12/25 HOUSE Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee
HOUSE Now in Government Operations Subcommittee

5. SB 462/HB 567 – Department of Transportation (DiCeglie/McFarland)

Summary:

- Numerous changes regarding FDOT.
- Requires entities that place, replace, or relocates underground utilities within FDOT right-of-way to make utilities electronically detectible as approved by FDOT.
- Utility permits or relocation agreements must require utility owner to pay damages for failure to timely remove or relocate a utility, payment of costs incurred due to failure to timely relocate utilities pursuant to an approved work schedule, or for damage done to existing infrastructure or roadway failures.
- Requirement to submit as-built plans within 20 days of completion of utility work. Requirements for utility owner to submit plans showing existing and proposed location of utility facilities and schedule for relocation meeting form and timeframe requirements established by FDOT.
- 30-day requirement to provide revised schedule upon becoming aware of need for additional work.
- Utility owner is liable to FDOT for documented damages resulting from failure to comply with schedule, including any delay costs incurred by FDOT contractor. Establishes mediation process to resolve disputes between FDOT and utilities. Decision of mediation board subject to review in Leon County.

Status:

SB 462

02/03/25 SENATE Filed
02/10/25 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Regulated Industries; Fiscal Policy

HB 567

02/12/25 HOUSE Filed
02/19/25 HOUSE Referred to Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee;
Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee; Commerce Committee
HOUSE Now in Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee

6. **HB 651/SB 700 – Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Tuck/Truenow)**

Summary:

- Various consumer measures.
- Prohibits any “additives” to a public water system that are not “water quality additives,” including additives included primarily for health-related purposes, i.e. fluoride.
- Effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

HB 651

02/14/25 HOUSE Filed
02/26/25 HOUSE Referred to Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee;
Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee;
Commerce Committee
HOUSE Now in Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee
03/05/25 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating
Impact Conference, 03/07/25, 9:00 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken)

SB 700

02/13/25 SENATE Filed
02/25/25 SENATE Referred to Agriculture; Appropriations Committee on
Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

7. **HB 661/SB 1846 – One Water Approach Toward the State’s Water Supply (Albert/Truenow)**

Summary:

- Expresses support for Florida One Water Commission “one-water” approach to state’s water supply, whether from the tap, a stream, a storm, an aquifer, or a sewer, in a collaborative, integrated, inclusive, and holistic manner to support future growth of this state's water supply and avoid any projected shortages.

Status:

HB 661

02/17/25 HOUSE Filed
02/26/25 HOUSE Referred to Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; State
Affairs Committee

HOUSE **Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee**

SB 1846

03/04/25 **SENATE** **Filed**

8. HB 691/SB 1228 – Springs Restoration (Conerly/McClain)

Summary:

- Allows domestic wastewater facility with approved SB 64 plan to incorporate a reclaimed water project identified in an Outstanding Florida Springs recovery or prevention strategy to incorporate the project in the plan if certain requirements are met.

Status:

HB 691

02/18/25 **HOUSE** **Filed**

02/26/25 **HOUSE** **Referred to Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee**

HOUSE **Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee**

SB 1228

02/25/25 **SENATE** **Filed**

03/03/25 **SENATE** **Referred to Environment and Natural Resources; Regulated Industries; Rules**

9. HB 739/SB 1436 – Sanitary and Storm Water System Standards (Grow/McClain)

Summary:

- Requires that for counties and municipalities, all installed or repaired sanitary and stormwater laterals, sewer pipes, storm pipes and manhole covers must follow FDOT's annual Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction for Pipe Culverts and Pipe Liners.
- Requires independent inspections to be performed for such jobs.

Status:

HB 739

02/19/25 **HOUSE** **Filed**

02/26/25 **HOUSE** **Referred to Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee**

HOUSE **Now in Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee**

SB 1436

02/26/25 SENATE Filed

10. SB 810 – Stormwater Management Systems (Burgess)

Summary:

- Requires local governments to annually inspect stormwater management systems under its control by June 1 each year and submit form to Division of Emergency Management.
- Instructs DEM to adopt implementing rules and form.

Status:

SB 810

02/18/25 SENATE Filed

02/28/25 SENATE Referred to Environment and Natural Resources; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy

11. HB 857/SB 1386 – Assault or Battery on a Utility Worker (Kincart Johnson/Yarborough)

Summary:

- Defines “utility worker” as person with marking identifying employing or contracting utility and identifies person as a utility worker for an entity furnishing electricity, natural or manufactured gas, water, wastewater, telephone, or communications service.
- Adds utility work to existing law providing penalty for assault or battery on law enforcement officers and related personnel.

Status:

HB 857

02/20/25 HOUSE Filed

03/02/25 HOUSE Referred to Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

HOUSE Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee

SB 1386

02/26/25 SENATE Filed

12. HB 861/SB 978 – Advanced Wastewater Treatment (Cross/Berman)

Summary:

- Finds that discharge of inadequately treated wastewater and aging disposal facilities compromises the environment, and the only way to improve wastewater management is to require advance wastewater treatment or better at all sewage disposal facilities with a capacity greater than 1 mgd.
- By December 31, 2025, requires DEP, with WMDs and wastewater facilities, to submit a report detailing information regarding status of wastewater facilities, levels of treatment, estimated pollutant loading, disposal methods and volumes, spills and other information.
- By December 31, 2026, DEP to submit report with priority ranking process to upgrade all sewage facilities in the state to AWT by 2036 with specified information.
- By June 30, 2027, DEP to submit a progress report on status of upgrades established under prior report.

Status:

HB 861

02/20/25 HOUSE Filed
03/02/25 HOUSE Referred to Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget ; State Affairs Committee
HOUSE Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

SB 978

02/21/25 SENATE Filed
02/28/25 SENATE Referred to Environment and Natural Resources; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

13. HB 1123/SB 1784 – Sewer Collection Systems (Cassel/Pizzo)

Summary:

- Permits municipalities to use revenue generated from operation of central sewage system for expansion of the central sewage system.

Status:

HB 1123

02/26/25 HOUSE Filed
03/05/25 HOUSE Referred to Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee
HOUSE Now in Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

SB 1784

02/28/25 SENATE Filed

14. SB 7002/HB 1169 – Water Management Districts (ENR Committee/Conerly)

Summary:

- Mandates SFWMD to provide annual reports on Everglades restoration, including costs, status, and performance indicators.
- Prohibits WMDs from using state funds as local matches unless specifically authorized for that purpose.
- Allows WMDs to levy ad valorem taxes through local referendum for capital improvement projects, up to maximum millage rate.
- New WMD requirements for detailed budgeting.
- Allows Legislative Budget Commission to reject WMD budget proposals funded with state appropriations or in WMD's 5-year CIP plan.
- Allows DEP to issue interest-free loans to WMDs for eligible projects.
- Allocates significant funding for CERP projects.

Status:

SB 7002

02/10/25 SENATE Filed
SENATE On Committee agenda - Environment and Natural Resources, 02/18/25, 11:00 am, 110 S
02/18/25 SENATE Submitted as Committee Bill and Reported Favorably by Environment and Natural Resources; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays
02/19/25 SENATE Committee Bill Text Filed
02/20/25 SENATE Referred to Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Appropriations
02/28/25 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government, 03/05/25, 11:00 am, 412 K

HB 1169

02/26/25 HOUSE Filed

15. HB 1187/SB 1208 – Service Lateral Assessment and Rehabilitation (Nix/Truenow)

Summary:

- Requires utilities to establish comprehensive assessment program for service laterals.
- Requires service laterals to be inspected by CCTV every 7 years.
- Requires data collection and storage of information, to be made accessible to public for properties with identified issues.
- Requires monolithic lateral repair program for high-risk laterals, requiring repairs to be completed within 12 months of identification.
- Requires compliance submittals to DEP and provides penalties for violations of license suspension and state funding suspension.
- Provides state may establish incentive programs, grants or matching funds.

Status:

HB 1187

02/26/25 HOUSE Filed

03/05/25 HOUSE Referred to Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

HOUSE Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

SB 1208

02/25/25 SENATE Filed

03/03/25 SENATE Referred to Environment and Natural Resources; Regulated Industries; Fiscal Policy

16. HB 1523/SB 1704 – Utility Services (Busatta/Calatayud)

Summary:

- New agreements, or extension of agreements regarding provision of utility service outside municipal limits to other municipalities or land owners may not become effective until representative of provider and area to be served participates in a public meeting regarding service areas, rates, fees, charges, extent revenues will be used for non utility functions.
- Requires annual public customer meeting attended by provider and receiving entity regarding utility matters and rates.
- Utility generating revenue from provision of service outside corporate limits may not use more than 10% of gross revenue to fund general government functions. Excess revenues must be reinvested in the municipal utility or returned to customers beyond municipal limits.
- By November 1, 2025, municipalities providing service outside boundaries must provide a report to Florida Public Service Commission identifying number and percent of customers receiving utility services outside boundaries, percent of sales and gross revenues from those customers, and comparison of rates and fees to customers inside and outside boundaries. PSC to report that information to Governor and Legislature.
- Eliminates 25 percent surcharge maximum in current law for customers outside boundaries. Rates and fees to outside customers must be equitable and based on same factors used in fixing rates to municipal customers, and such rates cannot exceed 25% of total amount charged inside customers (50% in current law).
- Municipality providing service to consumers within another municipality through use of plant located within the other municipality may not change more than the rates and fees imposed inside municipality.

Status:

HB 1523

02/28/25 HOUSE Filed

SB 1704

02/28/25 SENATE Filed

17. HB 1575/SB 1646 – Water Quality Improvements (Driskell/Berman)

Summary:

- Requires OPPAGA to study prevalence and effect of lead in drinking water at facilities receiving public funding.
- Requires DEP to prioritize water quality improvement projects.
- Directs DOH and FFWCC to develop programs to address harmful algal blooms.
- Requires WMDs to submit plan for mitigating blue-green algal blooms by July 2027 and requires local entities to establish implementation schedules.
- Requires agencies to address nutrient loading in Lake Okeechobee and Upper St. Johns Basin.

Status:

HB 1575

02/28/25 HOUSE Filed

SB 1646

02/28/25 SENATE Filed