

Florida Moves to Phase Out PFAS Firefighting Foam and Require Wastewater Biosolids Testing

[HB 1019](#) – Rep. William Conerly (SB 1230 – Sen. Gayle Harrell)

General Bill Summary

CS/CS/HB 1019 addresses environmental and public health concerns related to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly referred to as “forever chemicals.” The bill phases out the use, sale, and distribution of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing intentionally added PFAS, which has historically been used for firefighting, particularly at airports, industrial facilities, and emergency response agencies.

The legislation establishes timelines and restrictions on the possession and use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam and requires certain entities to inventory existing PFAS foam and submit disposal plans to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP is directed to maintain a registry of PFAS-free alternatives and may administer grants or cost-share programs to assist with the transition to safer products.

The bill also creates new monitoring requirements for public wastewater facilities. Public entities that dispose of domestic wastewater biosolids and treated effluent above a specified system size must conduct periodic sampling for PFAS compounds and report results to DEP. The bill also provides liability protection for these entities by stating that the sampling is for informational purposes only until national PFAS water quality standards are established and adopted by DEP.

The bill passed both chambers of the Legislature unanimously and was substituted for the Senate companion during final passage.

Potential County Impact

Counties may be affected primarily through local fire departments, wastewater utilities, and environmental compliance programs.

Local fire departments operated by counties may need to phase out existing PFAS-containing firefighting foams, particularly AFFF used for high-hazard fire suppression. Departments may be required to inventory remaining stock, coordinate proper disposal, and transition to PFAS-free alternatives. While the bill authorizes DEP to administer grants or cost-share programs for this transition, funding availability and eligibility may affect the overall cost burden on local governments.

County utilities that operate public wastewater treatment plants and biosolids disposal programs may face new compliance requirements. Facilities with a designed average daily flow of 25,000 gallons or more must conduct periodic sampling of biosolids for PFAS compounds and report those results to DEP. This may require laboratory testing, updated monitoring procedures, and additional reporting.

Counties could experience operational and fiscal impacts, including testing costs, compliance monitoring, foam replacement expenses, and potential disposal costs for legacy firefighting foam. Environmental reporting and coordination with DEP may also increase administrative responsibilities.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 376.911, F.S.
- s. 403.086, F.S.