

## **Biosolids Land Application Tightened Under New State Standards**

[HB 1245](#) – Rep. Jason Shoaf (SB 1294 – Sen. Jennifer Bradley)

### **General Bill Summary**

CS/CS/HB 1245 modifies Florida’s biosolids management framework by establishing new requirements for the land application and distribution of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost products. Biosolids are treated sewage sludge that may be reused as fertilizer or soil amendments.

The legislation prohibits applying these products to land at rates that exceed appropriate agronomic rates, meaning the amount necessary for crop or soil nutrient needs. Land application site operators must maintain records documenting application rates and related information.

The bill directs the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) to publish recommended agronomic rates for bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost products every two years and make the information publicly available.

The measure also establishes conditions for distributing or marketing biosolids as fertilizer or soil amendments. Products may be land-applied more broadly if transferred through a “bona fide sale,” meaning a legitimate market transaction reflecting fair market value. Biosolids products not distributed through such a sale may only be applied at sites specifically approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The Legislature passed the bill unanimously in both chambers, and it was ordered enrolled on March 10, 2026.

### **Potential County Impact**

Counties may experience operational and regulatory implications related to biosolids management, wastewater treatment, and land application oversight.

County utilities that operate wastewater treatment facilities often produce biosolids as a byproduct. The bill’s new agronomic rate limits and marketing requirements could influence how counties transport, sell, or dispose of biosolids, particularly if the material is distributed for land application. Counties may need to ensure that contracted land application vendors comply with the new rate limits, recordkeeping obligations, and DEP site approval requirements.

The requirement that biosolids products be transferred through a bona fide sale to qualify for broader distribution may affect current disposal or reuse arrangements. Some counties that currently transfer biosolids at minimal cost or through exchange agreements may need to adjust contractual structures or rely more heavily on DEP-approved application sites.

County environmental or solid waste departments may also interact with the updated regulatory framework through coordination with DEP and agricultural land application operators within their jurisdictions.

The staff analysis notes no direct fiscal impact on state or local governments; however, counties could face indirect operational or contractual adjustments related to biosolids handling and land application practices.

### **Effective Date**

November 1, 2026.

(Staff analysis also indicates certain provisions, including the statutory definition of “bona fide sale,” become operative July 1, 2028.)

### **Primary Statutory References**

- s. 403.0855, F.S.