

## **Environmental Policy Overhaul: Legislature Restructures DEP Programs and Water Infrastructure Oversight**

[HB 1417](#) – Rep. Chip LaMarca (SB 1510 – Sen. Ralph E. Massullo Jr.)

### **General Bill Summary**

CS/CS/CS/HB 1417 makes broad statutory changes affecting the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and several environmental regulatory programs in Florida. The legislation restructures environmental governance, modifies wastewater and stormwater policies, and updates several environmental permitting and grant programs.

Key provisions include eliminating the Environmental Regulation Commission and shifting certain rulemaking and oversight responsibilities to other entities within the state environmental governance structure. The bill expands the membership of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) and transfers administration of the Florida Communities Trust from DEP to ARC, with the intent of improving coordination of land conservation and community development programs.

The bill also revises provisions related to stormwater management systems and solar facilities, including design requirements for stormwater systems serving new solar projects in the Northwest Florida Water Management District. It modifies requirements governing central sewer system connections, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, aerobic treatment units, and wastewater services.

Additional changes affect basin management action plans, coastal resiliency programs, air pollution operating license fees, and various DEP grant programs related to small community sewer construction and environmental infrastructure.

The Legislature passed the bill during the 2026 session (House 109-0; Senate 34-3) and it was sent to the Governor following passage in both chambers.

### **Potential County Impact**

HB 1417 may affect county governments in several operational and regulatory areas, particularly in environmental infrastructure, wastewater systems, and land conservation coordination.

Changes to wastewater treatment systems, onsite sewage treatment, and central sewer connections may affect county utilities, environmental health programs, and local planning departments. Counties that operate or oversee wastewater infrastructure may need to adjust permitting, inspection, or system-management practices based on revised DEP standards.

Stormwater management design standards for solar facilities may also affect counties involved in reviewing or coordinating site development for large energy projects, particularly in regions within the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

The transfer of administration of the Florida Communities Trust from DEP to the Acquisition and Restoration Council could affect counties that pursue grants for parks, conservation lands, or community open space projects. Counties may interact with different oversight structures or grant review processes as the program transitions to ARC.

Additionally, changes to basin management action plans and environmental permitting structures could influence how counties coordinate with DEP on water quality restoration, stormwater compliance, and infrastructure projects.

Because the bill covers numerous environmental regulatory programs, implementation details may depend on future DEP rulemaking or program guidance. Counties involved in water, wastewater, or land conservation initiatives should monitor these changes for administrative or funding impacts.

## **Effective Date**

July 1, 2026.

## **Primary Statutory References**

- **s. 20.255, F.S.**
- **s. 120.81, F.S.**
- **s. 259.035, F.S.**
- **s. 373.421, F.S.**
- **s. 373.4595, F.S.**
- **s. 376.302, F.S.**
- **ss. 380.501–380.515, F.S.**
- **s. 381.0065, F.S.**
- **s. 403.031, F.S.**
- **s. 403.061, F.S.**
- **s. 403.067, F.S.**
- **s. 403.0872, F.S.**
- **s. 403.1835, F.S.**
- **s. 403.1838, F.S.**