

## **State Land Acquisition, Retention, and Disposal Procedure Revised with Environmental Consideration in Mind**

[House Bill 1379](#) requires local governments to consider extensive sanitary sewer additions when drafting a comprehensive plan. Comprehensive plans are required to be updated with this element by July 1, 2024. House Bill 1379 also amends section 259.032, Florida Statutes, to allow the governor under the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to appropriate money to complete critical linkages through fee acquisitions of beneficial wildlife habitat.

The bill also amends the Florida Forever Act to require FDACS to submit an updated priority list and creates section 373.469, Florida Statutes, to establish the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program. The Florida Legislature found that the Indian River Lagoon is a critical water resource under threat from excessive nutrient disposal that must be restored. Action plans for restoring the different sections of the lagoon must be submitted every 5 years. These plans must include a list of projects that will achieve pollutant load reductions and a cost estimate. New onsite sewage treatment plants in that area are prohibited. To that effect, any commercial or residential property with an existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal system located in this area must connect to the central sewer or upgrade to an enhanced nutrient sewage treatment system that achieves at least 65% nitrogen reduction. These standards are intended to work concurrently with state authority and local administrative authority.

The bill also makes various amendments to requirements for entities implementing water basin management action plans. Local governments not attaining the goals of their management plans must provide updates on the status of sanitary sewers to the department. The bill also establishes a grant to address nutrient loading of water resources.

HB 1379 was signed into law and became effective on July 1, 2023.