

CS/CS/HB 23: Water and Wastewater Facility Operators

Summary:

The bill, CS/CS/HB 23, relates to water and wastewater facility operators. It amends existing statutes to provide licensure requirements and regulations for water treatment plant operators, water distribution system operators, and domestic wastewater treatment plant operators. The bill also establishes that the Department of Environmental Protection must issue licenses by reciprocity to eligible applicants and has the authority to issue temporary operator licenses during a declared state of emergency. The bill will take effect on July 1, 2023.

Cons	Pros
1) The bill may create a potential risk to public health and the environment by allowing individuals with licenses from other states or entities with less strict requirements to operate water and wastewater treatment facilities in Florida. 2) The issuance of temporary operator licenses during a declared state of emergency may lead to inadequate training and preparation, potentially compromising the safety and efficiency of water and wastewater facilities. 3) By waiving the application fee for temporary licenses, the bill may incentivize individuals with insufficient qualifications or experience to quickly obtain licenses, increasing the likelihood of errors or accidents in the operation of water and wastewater facilities.	1) This bill aims to ensure that water and wastewater facilities have qualified personnel operating them, which is crucial for maintaining public health and safety. 2) By issuing licenses by reciprocity to applicants who meet the necessary requirements, the bill streamlines the licensing process and allows for the acknowledgment of licenses obtained from other states or relevant agencies. 3) During a declared state of emergency, the bill allows for the issuance of temporary operator licenses, ensuring that there are enough qualified personnel available to respond to and address any urgent water or wastewater facility needs.