

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

## Summary:

This bill relates to water and wastewater facility operators. It amends various sections of the Florida Statutes to revise legislative findings and intent, provide definitions, and establish licensure requirements for operators. The Department of Environmental Protection is required to issue various types of operator licenses by reciprocity to certain applicants and is authorized to issue temporary licenses during a declared state of emergency. The bill also includes provisions for waiving application fees for temporary licenses and requires the department to adopt rules to implement these changes.

Cons	Pros
1) This bill may increase the chances of unqualified personnel operating water and wastewater treatment plants, posing a risk to public health and safety. 2) The issuance of licenses by reciprocity may not adequately assess the competency and qualifications of applicants from other states, potentially compromising the quality of water and wastewater services. 3) The waiving of application fees for temporary operator licenses during a declared state of emergency may undermine the financial resources needed to properly evaluate and monitor operators, leading to potential lapses in safety and compliance.	1) The bill aims to ensure that water and wastewater facilities are operated by qualified personnel, which is essential for protecting public health and the environment. 2) By allowing the Department of Environmental Protection to issue licenses by reciprocity, the bill creates a streamlined process for qualified applicants from other states or government entities to obtain licenses in Florida, increasing the pool of skilled operators available. 3) During a declared state of emergency, the bill allows for the issuance of temporary licenses, ensuring that there are enough operators available to respond to critical situations and maintain the operation of water and wastewater facilities.