

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee

BILL: PCS/SB 570 (939238)

INTRODUCER: Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee

SUBJECT: Environmental Protection

DATE: March 12, 2010 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Wiggins	Kiger	EP	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) amends s. 403.7032, F. S., to require all cities, county, state entities, public schools and businesses that employ more than 25 people, to report to their county their recycling rates on all recyclable materials. The PSC directs the Department of Management Services (DMS) to modify their procurement system to track the state’s purchases of green and recycled materials. The PCS revises s. 288.9015, F.S., and directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Enterprise Florida, Inc., to create the Recycling Business Assistance Center to coordinate between state agencies and the private sector to develop new markets for recyclable materials.

The PSC amends s. 403.7046, F.S., to delete an obsolete requirement that the DEP appoint a technical advisory committee to assist in developing rules governing the regulation of recovered materials. The PCS specifies that all Materials Recovery Facilities must report the details of the materials they receive to DEP and to the counties. The PSC amends s. 403.705, F.S., to require the DEP to report to the Legislature the state’s recycling rates every two years. Further, the PCS revises s. 403.706, F.S., outlining the state’s incremental recycling goals and specific benchmarks that must be reached by December 31, 2020. The PCS also outlines state recycling goals for construction and demolition debris and commercial and multi-family dwellings. If the state by January 1, 2014, has not reached a recycling rate of forty-five percent, DEP will investigate and report to the Legislature programmatic changes that could assist in achieving the recycling goal.

The PCS deletes a requirement that all counties compost at least 5 percent of organic materials. The PCS details that solid waste for the production of renewable energy can count toward the recycling goals if the county in which a waste to energy facility is located has a program that is

designed to recycle at least fifty percent of the municipal solid waste by means other than gasification or combustion, however, an allowance is made for those counties that have bond payments tied to the revenue stream of these facilities. The PCS specifies that local governments may enact ordinances to require multi-family dwellings and apartment complexes to establish programs for the separation of recyclable materials.

The PCS revises s. 403.7145, F.S. to replace the terms “aluminum” and “cans” with “beverage containers”. It specifies that the Capitol buildings report their recycling rates to Leon County and those rates will be posted on DEP’s website. A provision also allows for a pilot program to test innovative recycling practices.

The PCS revises s. 403.707, F.S., to require liners and leachate collection systems in certain landfill facilities constructed after July, 2010, that accept construction and demolition materials. The PCS establishes recycling benchmarks in addition to the requirement that all construction and demolition debris be processed prior to disposal. The PCS requires that DEP conduct at least one unannounced inspection annually, at all waste-to-energy facilities, to ensure that the facility is in compliance.

Finally, the PCS repeals s. 288.1185, F.S., the Recycling Markets Advisory Committee in the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

The PCS provides an effective date of July, 1, 2010.

The PCS amends, s. 403.7032, 288.9015, 403.7046, 403.705, 403.706, 403.7145 and 403.707, F.S. The PCS repeals s. 288.1185, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

In 1988, the Florida Legislature passed the Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA) which included a 30% recycling goal. According to the DEP as of 2007 Florida generates more than 32 million tons of municipal solid waste annually and the state’s average recycling rate is 28%. In 2008, the Legislature reasserted the importance of recycling and established a new goal of 75% to be achieved by 2020. The Energy, Climate Change and Economic Security Act of 2008, in which the new goal was established directed the DEP to conduct public hearings and submit a report, by January 1, 2010, with recommendations, on how to reach the goal. DEP’s report to the Legislature recommended the following:

- each state agency should report to the Department of Management Services (DMS) its total expenditures on materials with recycled content,
- an increase in recycling education opportunities in K-12 public schools,
- development of statewide recognition programs to reward citizens, schools, cities and municipalities recycling efforts,
- that the Legislature direct DEP to review in five years the number of local governments that have implemented pay as you throw (PAYT) to determine if additional measures are needed to increase the adoption of PAYT,

- that the Legislature require all construction and demolition (C&D) be processed at a materials recovery facility prior to disposal,
- that the Legislature require commercial recycling in counties with over a 100,000 population and cities with over 50,000 population,
- that the Legislature should consider the creation of a landfill disposal fee,
- that the Legislature should consider enacting a bottle bill to increase recycling of beverage containers,
- that the Legislature should allow DEP to reduce or modify the composting goal,
- that the Legislature should create a Recycling Business Assistance Center to promote markets for the entire spectrum of recyclable municipal solid waste materials, and
- encourage the flow of materials such as food waste, yard trash, and paper to organic recycling centers, etc.

Composting Requirements

Currently local governments have been directed to develop and implement a plan to achieve a goal to compost organic materials that would otherwise be disposed of in a landfill. The goals provide that up to 10 percent and no less than 5 percent of organic materials would be composted within the county. DEP can reduce the counties compost goal if the county can demonstrate that due to their unique demographics or other factors they have an inability to separate compostable materials.

Recyclable Materials Markets

According to DEP's report, of the 32.3 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Florida, approximately 40% is organic materials such as food waste, yard trash and paper. The recycling rate for food waste is 1.4%, 37% for yard trash, and 27% for paper. Florida's counties play a crucial role in organics recycling because they handle large amounts of organic wastes from all sources. State regulations, market conditions and other economic circumstances all affect the potential success of organics recycling in Florida. State programs can stimulate technological advances and new uses through the market development and procurement policies. While existing school recycling programs generally address paper, aluminum cans and sometimes plastic bottles, the composting of food wastes at schools could allow students to increase the recycling rate, provide high quality soil to the school grounds, and present a real world learning opportunity for teachers.

Another aspect of market development that can be fine tuned to fit the needs of each region is the material recovery facilities. The cost associated with materials recovery facilities vary according to geographic location and the needs of the community. A north Florida facility processing 500 tons per day of construction and demolition debris reports an estimated capital cost of \$7.5 million to become operational, while a South Florida facility that processes 2,500 tons per day or more reports an estimated capital cost of \$13.6 million.

Solid Waste Management

DEP was directed in s. 403.7046, F.S., to create a technical advisory committee to include representatives from local waste management and recycling communities to develop rules and to elicit comment of the types of recovered materials handled at the disposal sites and waste facilities. DEP has stated that this committee has already fulfilled its requirements and the technical advisory committee has disbanded.

According to DEP's report, recycling operations at Florida's 12 WTE facilities could account for roughly 12 % of the 75% goal. Through the mass combustion of MSW (Municipal solid waste) and refuse-derived fuel Florida's WTE facilities generate 3.25 million megawatts of energy per year, which is enough electricity to fuel 300,000 households in Duval County for one year. Currently, the law allows renewable energy from solid waste to count toward the 75 % goal. However, according to DEP's report, measuring the contribution of the waste to energy facilities is challenging. DEP stated that they intend to appoint an advisory group to address what methodology needs to be utilized to calculate and credit WTE's production.

The commercial sector generates 67% of the MSW which is twice what is generated by single-family residents. The commercial sector has a current recycling rate of 30%. However, during the public hearings DEP conducted, recycling input from a variety of commercial entities indicates that their commercial rates are much higher. The commercial sector is not required to disclose their recycling rates to DEP so it is difficult, if not impossible, for DEP to know the commercial sector's recycling rate. The DEP recommends requiring the reporting of commercial recycling for those businesses in counties with a population greater than 100,000 and cities with a population greater than 50,000. This approach could cover approximately 95% of Florida's population and if the recycling rate in the commercial sector was at least 75%, the MSW recycling rate in Florida, according to the DEP, would bump from 28% to 59%.

Commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings offer recycling but the options vary from city to city and building to building. In some cases, a business would have to arrange for recycling pick up or in smaller rural communities the items would have to be hauled to a recycling center. Depending on the volume of recyclable materials the businesses generates, it may make it cost prohibitive for smaller businesses and rural communities to recycle when economically practical options are not made available. In some commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings like apartment complexes, the recycling options can depend on dumpster space limitations and parking space requirements. During DEP's public hearings on recycling, it was suggested that commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings need guidance from the state and their respective cities to secure recycling options in these locations. Rural communities are encouraged to regionally pool their resources together in order to make recycling options a reality. Many large facilities, such as schools and correctional facilities have recycling options in place but there was public testimony that due to employee complacency, sham recycling, and a lack of education, many recycling campaigns have fizzled out. Based on the reporting void and volume of recyclable materials in a concentrated building or area, the commercial sector has the potential of being an example of a significant under utilized recycling market.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris consists of materials that are generated from residential and commercial buildings, renovations and various types of demolition. C&D materials include wood, steel, glass, brick, concrete, asphalt, wallboard, rock, soils, tree remains, and other vegetative matter. Only non-water soluble and non-hazardous materials are

considered C&D. C&D constitutes 25% of Florida's MSW waste stream. Currently only 27% or 2.1 million tons of Florida's C&D is recycled. According to the DEP the recycling potential of C&D remains a significant untapped resource. As evidenced by an April of 2005 study conducted by the Boston Society of Architects, Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection which found that from almost any job site, 90% to 95% of all waste materials can be recycled¹. In an effort to increase recycling of C&D other states such as Massachusetts, California, and Vermont have banned disposing of most C&D debris in landfills. Further, these states have established comprehensive recycling guides and have imposed penalties to ensure these recyclable materials are not placed in landfills and to preserve virgin materials whenever possible. Some cities have chosen to establish benchmarks to address their state's ban on placing C&D in the landfill. For example, Northbrook, Illinois, has specified the following: between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2010, at least 50% of the construction and demolition debris must be recycled.

In order to help states increase their recycling efforts, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has detailed guidelines and definitions that outline what C&D materials can be recycled. The site describes commonly recovered materials including asphalt paving, land clearing residuals (trees, brush, and soil), wood, gypsum wallboard, metal, concrete, roofing, asphalt shingles, brick, etc². The site showcases cities that are utilizing zero waste policies in their C&D projects and outlines the importance of having a plan in place before demolition begins. Further it outlines the cost savings benefits and how much waste can be diverted from the landfill.

Florida has 83 landfills and 75 C&D disposal sites where C&D can be disposed. Most C&D disposal sites are unlined and are not required to have daily cover like permitted landfills. DEP has indicated that unlined C&D landfills are environmentally problematic. There was public testimony at the recycling public hearings expressing concern about possible water contamination by unlined C&D landfills.

Bottle Bill Option

Eleven states have beverage container deposits, also known as bottle bills. A bottle bill can be designed to increase recycling and use unredeemed deposits to fund various recycling programs at the state and local level. DEP, in their report to the Legislature stated that if Florida had a bottle bill with a 10 cent deposit, unredeemed deposits could amount to approximately \$35 million annually. Proponents of a bottle bill suggest that recycling on the whole will increase as the consumers becomes more conscientious when they collect and redeem their bottles. As a result, the awareness towards all recyclable materials will become heightened.

Landfill Disposal Surcharge

Approximately 35 of the 50 states have enacted landfill disposal surcharges. Based on 2007 data from Florida counties a surcharge of \$1 per ton on waste disposed at landfills would result in approximately \$23 million in revenue annually. If the surcharge would also apply to WTE plants,

¹ Recycling Construction and Demolition Wastes Guidebook, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

² <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserv/rrr/imr/cdm/bytype.htm> (last visited 3/7/010)

that would mean an additional \$4 million in revenue annually. Proponents of a landfill disposal surcharge maintain that a surcharge could potentially increase commercial recycling as businesses look for ways to reduce the cost of hauling waste to the landfill.

Retail Bag Report

Section 403.7033, F.S., states that no state or local retail bag regulation can be enacted until the Florida Legislature takes action. DEP presented their report to the Legislature on February 1, 2010. DEP recommended an education program to inform the public of the environmental problems that plastic bags cause and to continue to encourage retailers to provide incentives for customers to reduce the use of plastic bags. Some retailers provide a store credit if you bring in a reusable bag or will sell you a reusable bag for a fee. Further, most large retailers offer recycling receptacles for plastic bags and have agreed to accept all plastic bags even if they are not from their store.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1: Revises s. 403.7032, F.S., to:

- Require all cities, counties, state entities, public schools and businesses that employ more than 25 people, to report, utilizing DEP's reporting format, to their county their recycling rates on all recyclable materials collected,
- Clarifies that businesses in multiple counties will only have to provide one recycling rate report to DEP, utilizing DEP's designated reporting format,
- Outlines how businesses in compliance with the reporting requirement will be given additional preference when pursuing state contracts,
- Describes how any size business that is not required to report is encouraged to report and will receive preference under the state procurement guidelines,
- Specifies that a business that is required to report their recycling rates and fails to report their recycling rates will be reported as 0% and will not be eligible for preference when pursuing state procurement contracts,
- Direct the Department of Management Services to modify their online procurement system to track the state's purchases of green and recycled materials, and
- Direct the DEP and Enterprise Florida, Inc. to create the Recycling Business Assistance Center to coordinate between state agencies and the private sector to develop new markets for recyclable materials, evaluate specific materials suitable for concentrated market-development efforts, develop incentive proposals for targeted materials and provide guidance for a variety of recycling issues.

Section 2: Revises s. 288.9015, F.S., to conform to the creation of the Recycling Business Assistance Center within Enterprise Florida, Inc. and the DEP.

Section 3. Revises s. 403.7046, F.S., to delete an obsolete technical advisory committee and revises reporting requirements for recovered materials dealers to report to DEP and to all of the counties from which it receives materials.

Section 4. Amends s. 403.705, F.S. to require the Department to report to the Legislature the state's recycling rates every two years.

Section 5: Revises s. 403.706, F.S., to provide incremental recycling goals and specific benchmarks that must be reached by December 31, 2020. Specifically each county must implement a recycling program that is designed to recycle forty percent by December 31, 2012, fifty percent by December 31, 2014, sixty percent by December 31, 2016, seventy percent by December 31, 2018, and seventy-five percent by December 31, 2020.

The PCS also outlines state recycling goals for construction and demolition debris, and commercial and multi-family dwellings. The PSC requires that each county implement a program that will reduce C & D debris that is disposed of in landfills by forty percent by December 31, 2012, fifty percent by December 31, 2014, sixty percent by December 31, 2016, seventy percent by December 31, 2018 and seventy-five percent by December 31, 2020. Further all commercial and multi-family construction projects including but not limited to, apartment complexes that begin construction after July 1, 2010, must provide an opportunity for the tenants and owners to recycle, including providing designated space for the placement of recycling receptacles.

The PCS also specifies that if by January 1, of 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, a county has not reached the previous year's recycling goals, DEP may direct the county to develop a plan to expand recycling programs to existing commercial and multi-family dwellings. Finally, if the state by April 1, 2014, has not reached a recycling rate of forty-five percent DEP will assess programmatic changes, including but not limited to, composting, the impact a container deposit program, a landfill surcharge, or a prohibition of disposable bags would have on the state achieving the recycling goal. The DEP will provide this report to the legislature 30 days before the 2015 regular Session.

Additional changes to this section delete a requirement that all counties develop a goal to compost at least 5% of their organic materials. The PSC outlines how solid waste, that is used for the production of renewable energy, is counted towards the recycling goal. Specifically that counties may utilize the waste to energy facilities toward their goal as long as the county maintains a program that is designed to recycle fifty percent of its municipal solid waste by means other than combustion or gasification unless the county relies on the revenue stream from the facility to retire debt payments. The PSC specifies that all state entities and businesses that are required to report must utilize DEP's reporting format and the recycling rates will be posted on DEP's website annually. The PSC revises s. 403.706, (21), F.S., to specifically provide that local governments may enact ordinances to require multi-family dwellings and apartment complexes to recycle.

Section 6: Revises s. 403.7145, F.S. to replace the terms "aluminum" and "cans" with "beverage container". The PCS also creates a requirement that the Capitol complex report recycling rates to Leon County and that these rates be posted on the DEP's website. DEP will also post the recycling rates of each state owned facility that is a part of DMS's Pool facility. The term "DMS Pool facility" refers to the majority of state owned buildings that are a part of the Capitol complex and the Southwood office complexes located in Tallahassee, FL. The DEP is also provided authority to conduct a pilot program to test the effectiveness of innovative recycling practices and technologies.

Section 7: Revises s. 403.707, F.S., to require liners and leachate collection system in individual disposal units constructed after July, 2010, that accept construction and demolition materials. The PCS requires that all construction and demolition debris be processed prior to disposal unless such material has been source separated into recyclable components. Any materials recovery facilities or other permitted disposal that accepts construction or demolition debris beginning January 1, 2012, must be designed to recycle at least sixty percent of the materials accepted and have a long term plan designed to recycle seventy-five percent by December 31, 2020. Finally, a provision is added that requires the DEP to conduct at least one unannounced inspection annually, at all waste-to-energy facilities, to ensure that the facility is in compliance.

Section 8: Repeals s. 288.1185, F.S., the Recycling Markets Advisory Committee in the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

Section 9: Provides an effective date of July, 1, 2010.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Due to the requirement that all new C&D landfills must be lined, once a privately owned C&D landfills reaches capacity, the landfill owner, should they decide to build a new one, would have to incur the costs associated with constructing a new lined landfill. Based on discussions with industry, construction of a new C&D landfill is recommended to be at least 40 acres and the cost is approximately \$150,000 per acre.

According to DEP, for privately owned landfills, the more materials recycled, means fewer materials disposed, which means less revenue for landfills. Also, requiring all C&D to be processed at a materials recovery facility or other similar facility will

necessitate some capital costs to meet the increased demand for processing these materials.

The new recycling reporting requirements for businesses with more than 25 employees will have a fiscal impact that is indeterminate. The cost would be conditional upon whether or not these businesses are currently tracking this type of data.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The smaller counties may have difficulty meeting the increased recycling goal as they tend to rely on the state to supplement their MSW budget and may be fiscally constrained from expanding their current efforts.

Based on discussions with the agencies the creation of the Recycling Business Assistance Center can be accomplished with current resources.

The mandate that all public facilities shall be required to recycle may potentially have some fiscal impact. The impact is indeterminate and will be based on those changes that are needed to waste services currently being provided. It is anticipated that most public buildings already practice some form of recycling and that only an increase in employee education will be needed.

The cost of implementing the new recycling goals is difficult to determine. The PCS establishes a series of recycling benchmarks but provides no mandates for how they are to be met or any consequences for a failure to achieve them. The cost factor will be dependent on the changes needed to current waste management practices. If markets are available it may be that businesses will seek entry into the marketplace, however, a lack of markets for the materials may impede a public entity from contracting with recyclers and thus their ability to deal with materials that should not be land filled.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
