



Florida Onsite Wastewater Association, Inc.

Proposal to Replace Controversial Provisions in SB 550 September 2011

The Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA) supports the creation of a simple sewage treatment and disposal system inventory and evaluation program to identify and periodically evaluate the onsite systems in Florida. The primary goals of the program are to obtain an accurate number of onsite systems in the state, locate failing systems, protect public health, ensure that Florida's valuable water resources are protected from pollution and save homeowners money by prolonging the use of their onsite systems. Although well intended, FOWA believes there are provisions in SB 550 that should be repealed and amended.

FOWA's supports a proposal that:

- Repeals the burdensome provisions in SB 550;
- Creates a basic onsite sewage treatment model ordinance to inventory, evaluate and report the condition of septic systems every 5 years that is voluntary for counties;
- Prohibits local governments from adopting more stringent septic tank maintenance requirements than are required in the model ordinance;
- Provides for an evaluation that consists of a septic tank pump out, a visual inspection of the septic tank and a drainfield evaluation that includes the determination of the approximate size and location of the septic tank;
- Creates a standard for what constitutes a failing septic system, which includes sewage on the ground or sewage backing up into a home;
- Does not require septic system owners, in counties where the ordinance was adopted, to make any repairs or updates to their septic system unless the system is failing; and
- An exemption for homeowners from the 5 year evaluation program if their system was installed, modified, repaired or pumped-out within the last 5 years.

Administrative/Business Office

P. O. Box 950368
Lake Mary, FL 32795-0368
Phone: (321) 363-1590 ♦ Fax: (877) 832-9434
Email: admin@fowaonsite.com

Training Center

5115 State Road 557
Lake Alfred, FL 33850-7202
Phone: (863) 956-5540 ♦ Fax: (877) 832-9434
Email: trainingcenter@fowaonsite.com

Website: www.FOWAonsite.com