



**Onsite Sewage Program  
Report in Response to SB712 of the  
2020 Legislature**

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July 1, 2020

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

# Report regarding the Onsite Sewage Program pursuant to SB 712 of the 2020 Florida Legislature

## Background

### *SB 712 of the 2020 Florida Legislature*

The 2020 Florida Legislature passed senate bill 712 (SB712), the “Clean Waterways Act”. The Clean Waterways Act addresses several issues related to water quality improvement. As of this writing it is not in effect.

The act outlines a type two transfer of the Onsite Sewage Program from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by June 30, 2021. In preparation for this transfer the bill requires:

Section 2. (1) By July 1, 2020, the Department of Health must provide a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing the following information regarding the Onsite Sewage Program.

- (a) The average number of permits issued each year.
- (b) The number of department employees conducting work on or related to the program each year.
- (c) The program’s costs and expenditures, including, but not limited to, salaries and benefits, equipment costs, and contracting costs.

## Summary

This document provides a summary of the Onsite Sewage Program implemented by the Florida Department of Health (DOH). The summary provides the number of permits issued, number of staff conducting work in the program, and the costs and expenditures for the current program. DOH is an integrated agency comprising of a state health office (Central Office) headquartered in Tallahassee and Florida’s 67 county health departments (DOH CHDs). The Onsite Sewage Program is part of the Environmental Health (EH) services of DOH implemented at both the county level and state level.

*Number of DOH Staff conducting work on or related to the program each year*

For DOH CHDs, staff time is estimated based upon the total recorded service time spent by the staff in the Onsite Sewage Program that is converted to an estimated, full time equivalents (FTEs) or the number of individual full time staff necessary to perform the hours of work recorded for the program. The total number of people involved in providing Onsite Sewage Program-related activities is larger. For example, from 2018-2019, 639 separate positions logged activity time to Onsite Sewage Program services in DOH CHDs. For DOH Central Office, an actual count of the Central Office staff whose positions directly support the Onsite Sewage Program is provided. A proportion of time is allocated for support and administrative staff time (i.e., database, purchasing, budget review, payment processing, main phone line answering, mailing, etc.) to help the Onsite Sewage Program.

*Average Staffing Needs*

*Table 1. Staff working in the Program (estimated FTEs) and with Support and Administrative Staff*

DOH Location	Timeframe	Estimated FTEs	Total Estimated FTEs + Administration Support
DOH CHDs	Average over 5 years	239.08	297.83
Central Office	Last fiscal year	12	15.2

*Average Costs and Revenues*

*Table 2. Average Expenses by Budget Category of the Onsite Sewage Program for DOH (5 Years for DOH CHDs, 2 Years for DOH Central Office)*

DOH Location	Payroll Cost for Estimated FTEs + Administration Support (10000+30000)	Expenses (40000)	Operating Capital Outlay (60000)	Vehicle Acquisitions (100021)	Contractual Services (100777)	Risk Management (103241)	Other	Total
DOH CHDs	\$17,452,476	\$1,676,765	\$146,977	\$261,891	\$660,793	\$194,134	\$246,503	\$20,639,539
DOH Central Office	\$1,080,899	\$31,422	\$0	\$8,572	\$91,729	NA	\$57,201	\$1,269,823

Table 3. Average Program Revenue from State Permits and State Fees (5 Years for DOH CHDs, 2 Years for DOH Central Office).

DOH Location	Statewide Permit Fees Revenue	Statewide Fees Revenue	Registration & Surcharge	Grants	Grand Total* (State Revenue)
DOH CHDs	\$56,314	\$12,168,837	NA	NA	\$12,225,151
DOH Central Office	NA	\$1,216,401	\$332,427	\$22,647	\$1,571,474

\*In DOH CHDs, local fees and local revenue subsidizes difference in expense and state revenue. In DOH Central Office, difference in expense and revenue subsidize other EH services

## Average Permits Issued by DOH

### 1) Construction Permits

Table 5. Average Number of Construction Permits Issued Annually by DOH CHDs over 5 Years

Application Type	Number of Construction Permits Issued
Abandonment	6,813
Existing	0
New	15,737
Repair	20,098
Modification	599
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,247</b>

### 2) Operating Permits

Table 6. Operating Permit Renewals Annually by the DOH CHDs over 5 Years

Operating Permit Type	Estimated Number of Permit Renewals Required Each Year
Aerobic	4,125
Commercial	2,326
Industrial or Manufacturing	5,158
Performance Based Treatment System	684
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,293</b>

### 3) Service Permits

Table 7. Average Number of Service Permits Issued Annually by DOH CHDs over 5 Years

	New Permits	Renewal Permits	Total Permits Issued Each Year
<b>Average</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1021</b>	<b>1130</b>

4) Permit Variances

Table 8. Average Number of Permit Variance Applications processed Annually by DOH Central Office over 2 Years

	Total Permit Variance Applications
<b>Average</b>	<b>218</b>

5) Permits for Contractor Registration

Table 4. Average Number of Contractor Registrations given Annually by DOH Central Office over 2 Years

	Total Contractor Registrations	New Registrations	Renewal Registrations
<b>Average</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>613</b>

6) Permits for Business Authorization of Partnerships and Corporations

Table 5. Average Number of Certificate Authorizations Given Annually by DOH Central Office over 2 years

	Total Certificate Authorizations	New Business Authorizations	Business Re-Authorizations
<b>Average</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>287</b>