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## WATER RESOURCES

### Statement:

Water is an essential public asset that benefits Florida's economy, residents, visitors and environment. Presently, Florida spends less than 1/10 of 1 percent of its entire state budget on water supply and water quality improvements.

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to address Florida's water quality crisis and water supply deficiencies that:

- provides for an annual assessment of the state's water infrastructure and water quality improvement needs at the state, regional and local levels.
- establishes a framework for a state water infrastructure and water quality funding program that includes objective criteria tied to beneficial returns on investment, sustainable utility practices and intergovernmental coordination.
- identifies potential sources of funding or financing.

### Background:

- Water is an essential public asset that benefits Florida's economy, residents, visitors and environment.
- Florida's ability to meet its future water needs exceeds available supply and infrastructure.
- As much as \$48.71 billion may be needed over the next 20 years to meet needs for drinking water and wastewater, flood control, nutrient pollution, Everglades restoration, and beach and inlet erosion.
- The State of Florida should obtain an accurate assessment of current and future water infrastructure needs, identify potential funding sources and develop a long-term water supply and water quality funding program based on identified needs, objective criteria and intergovernmental partnerships and coordination.
- Legislation is needed to direct the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive and need-based assessment of the state's water resources, including an assessment of the funding needed to meet current and future demands.
- Legislation should also identify potential funding sources for a long-term, dedicated and recurring source of state funding for water supply and water quality improvement projects and measures.
- Legislation should establish the framework for a water supply infrastructure and water quality improvements grant program with local match requirements and transparent funding criteria.

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