

INSPECTIONS OF ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT

Owners of Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems May Hire Private Provider for Inspections:

[Senate Bill 856](#) permits owners of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (“System”) to hire a private provider to perform inspections, notwithstanding any other law, ordinance, or policy. A private provider may perform inspections on a System so long as one of the following conditions are met: the private provider is: (1) certified as an environmental health professional under section 381.0101, Florida Statutes; (2) registered as a master septic tank contractor under part III of Chapter 489; (3) licensed as a professional engineer under Chapter 471 and has passed all parts of an applicable training program; or (4) working under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer who has passed all parts of an applicable training program. However, the private provider (or an authorized representative of the private provider) who installed the System may not conduct the inspection.

An owner using a qualified private provider for an inspection must notify the Department of Environmental Protection (“FDEP”) at the time of the application or by 2 p.m. two days before the first scheduled inspection. The notice must include all of the information required in subsection (d) of the bill, along with a substantially similar acknowledgment to the form shown therein. The bill further authorizes a FDEP audit procedure to ensure the accurate performance of private providers giving System inspections. SB 856 was signed into law on May 12, 2022 and went into effect on July 1, 2022.