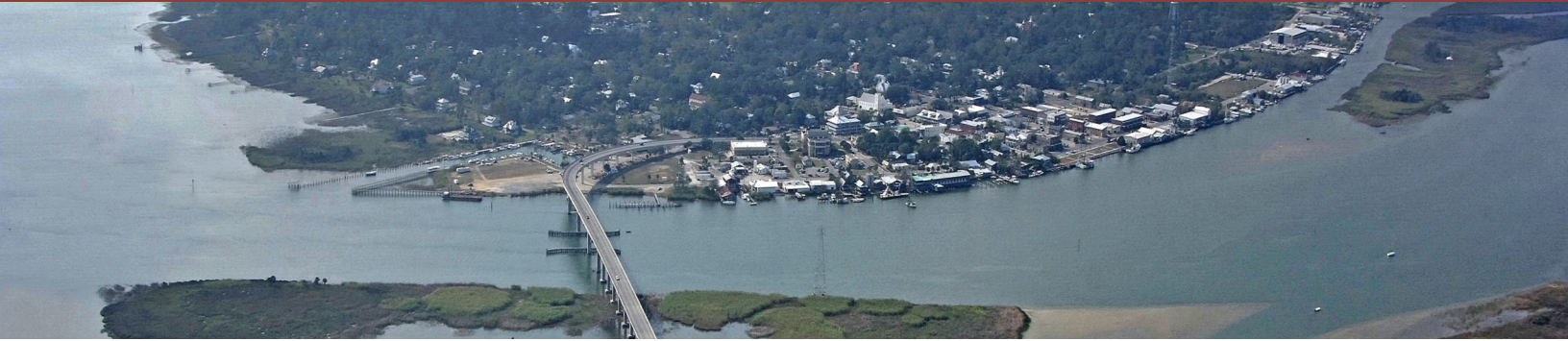


THE APALACHICOLA ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BILL

A LEGACY INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER QUALITY



The Apalachicola Environmental Stewardship Bill (SB 1256/HB 921) is a 2019 legislative initiative by the City of Apalachicola to fund some of our most critical needs and improve the water quality of Apalachicola Bay. Funds would provide improvements to our aged wastewater and stormwater systems, healthy drinking water, and water quality protection.

The Apalachicola Bay Area Protection Act passed in 1986 established Franklin County, including Apalachicola, as an Area of Critical State Concern. This is a State designation in recognition of the significant environmental sensitivity and natural resources of the area and the State's interest in protecting them. The legislative intent included protecting the water quality of the Apalachicola Bay to ensure a healthy environment and a thriving economy. In 1994, the State removed the Area of Critical State Concern designation from Franklin County but the City of Apalachicola continued with the designation. Today, the City is one of only two populated areas in Florida that remain designated as an Area of Critical State Concern. Monroe County, the other area that shares this designation, has received \$28.3 million over the last three years to support the same type of initiatives. The Apalachicola Environmental Stewardship Bill builds on the Legislature's intent to support our unique needs and asks for funding similar to what Monroe Co has received. The Bill specifically requests the following:

- Nearshore water quality protection through wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements. The City's aging infrastructure is failing and has the potential to cause significant environmental hazards to the Bay. The Bill requests funds to repair and upgrade our systems to safeguard our unique environment.
- Drinking water improvements. The Bill requests \$1.6 million to install a filtration system mandated by the State to bring the levels of Trihalomethanes into compliance with Federal standards.
- Water quality protection through land acquisition. The Bill requests funds for land acquisition and capital improvements to facilitate public access.

The passage of the Apalachicola Environmental Stewardship Bill is critical to the future of our City and the health of the Apalachicola River and Bay. Your support is appreciated!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CITYOFAPALACHICOLA.COM