

WORKFORCE ISSUE BILL PASSED

The workforce issues that you prioritized in the FRWA survey a couple years ago resulted in FRWA, along with many other Associations in Florida, proposing and supporting a bill in the Florida Legislature to add more tools to the hiring toolbox at water utilities. It will provide more entry into the certified operator profession and hopefully help with the workforce shortage that we heard loud and clear as your number one priority and concern expressed in services, support and need for FRWA to focus on.

Good News! A Bill to add critical/essential first responders' status for water workers, reciprocity with other states certifications to allow those licensed professionals to utilize their certification if they move to Florida to help our profession and water utilities workforce pool. The Bill also included reciprocity/credit for military and veterans experience to transition into our profession and temporary license in the time of declared events to help the impacted water utilities employees tend to family, home, and hurricane issues without worry for public services provided by dedicated system operators and workers.

The Bills in both the State Legislative chambers have passed as of April 20, 2023 and will be onto the Governor for ratification soon. Of note, the bill passed three Senate Committees, three House Committees, and with full member support of both the Senate and House. There were no votes against the bill at all committees and floor action.

FRWA's message from that is you are needed, and we need this valuable resource for the public health and environmental work you do for all of Florida and Floridians. So, congratulations and thank you!

For complete information on the Senate version of the bill (SB 162), [click here](#). For complete information on the House version of the bill (HB 23), [click here](#).