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Florida Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation Handbook: State Agency Structuring¹

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How Are Florida Agencies Structured?

The majority of Florida's state agencies have similar structures. Most agencies maintain their headquarters in Tallahassee and have regional offices throughout the state. Within each agency, there are various divisions, each with its own set of duties. Examples of such divisions include administration, permitting, enforcement, and public information. Within each division is a structure of even greater specificity—the bureau. These handle many of the divisional duties at a more local level.

How Is the Leader of an Agency Selected?

Agency heads are either elected or appointed. They keep in close touch with the Governor and most participate in state government as part of the state Cabinet. Agency heads also stay in close contact with the state Legislature to keep up with policy changes and to maintain accurate, up-to-date rules. Agency decisions are all made at the will of the legislature to some extent since it controls the annual budgets for

the agencies. The legislature in its oversight capacity may also request information from the agencies and can create and destroy agencies, as long as they are not constitutionally-created agencies such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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This handbook is designed to provide an accurate, current, and authoritative summary of the principal Florida laws that directly or indirectly relate

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to agriculture. It should provide a basic overview of the many rights and responsibilities farmers and farmland owners have under Florida laws. The reader is provided information about these rights and responsibilities and the appropriate contacts for more detailed information. However, the reader should be aware that because the laws, administrative rulings, and court decisions on which this publication is based are subject to constant revision, portions of this publication could become outdated at any time. Many details of cited laws are also left out due to space limitations.

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