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Representative Fentrice Driskell and Senator Janet Cruz File Legislation Related to Food Waste Disposal

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, **Representative Fentrice Driskell (D-Tampa)** filed [HB 1369](#) to address the growing issue of food waste in the state. **Senator Janet Cruz (D-Tampa)** has filed companion bill [SB 1764](#).

In collaboration with the **Hillsborough County Schools Superintendent Addison Davis** and Wharton High School, **Representative Fentrice Driskell** met virtually with several environmental studies students to identify an environmental issue important to them that she would address through legislation. Accordingly, **Representative Driskell** has filed **HB 1369** on their behalf. **Representative Driskell** highly values the opinion of the students; they are the future and need to have their voices heard within the legislative process, especially environment-related concerns.

Representative Driskell and **Senator Cruz's** legislation will take action to reduce the threat of food waste in Florida. Presently, food waste, alongside yard and paper waste, make up [40% of Florida's municipal waste stream](#). At the national level, [62.5 million tons of food ends up in landfills yearly](#). Florida, being the third most populous state in the nation, must take charge of the problem and combat the growing issue to reduce food waste statewide.

“It is important that our legislation reflects the needs and wants of our constituents, including our youth. That is why I dedicated one of my seven bill slots this legislative session to a group of students from Wharton High School, which is located in the heart of District 63. Over a Zoom virtual meeting, the students and I discussed and debated three bill ideas. After our discussion, the students voted for the bill they wanted me to carry, and so I am carrying **HB 1369** for them. It is important that the younger generation be at the forefront of such decisions because our legislative decisions regarding the environment will directly affect them. I am proud to amplify the voices of students within my district up in Tallahassee,” said **Representative Fentrice Driskell**.

“The development of this bill encapsulates what is the very best element of this process. These young men and women at Wharton High School are taking leadership on an issue that will surely have ramifications for generations to come, and they are approaching it

head on. This is an example that everyone involved in public service should follow. This innovative bill will ensure our state can limit the long-lasting implications of food waste on our already strained environment," said **Senator Janet Cruz**.

"This type of collaboration between our educational and legislative systems is what creates unique learning opportunities for students. We appreciate our partnership with **Representative Fentrice Driskell**, and look forward to engaging in the next steps of the legislative process to enhance the learning experience for our students," said **Superintendent Addison Davis**.

"Our students at Wharton High School are excited to be involved in the legislative process. This opportunity will truly bring to life what we teach our students in the classroom. We appreciate **Representative Driskell's** willingness and enthusiasm to include our students in this exciting exercise," said **Wharton High School Principal Mike Rowan**.

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State Representative Fentrice Driskell represents Florida House District 63, which is located in Hillsborough County and includes the Tampa-area communities of Carrollwood, Lake Magdalene, Lutz, University, New Tampa, and Pebble Creek.