

HB 419

2015

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Tiger Bay State Forest;
3 providing for use of roads and trails within the
4 forest by certain motor vehicles; requiring the
5 Florida Forest Service of the Department of
6 Agriculture and Consumer Services to designate an area
7 of the forest for exclusive use of off-highway
8 vehicles; directing the department to set a fee to
9 access such area; providing an effective date.

10
11 WHEREAS, the dual purposes of public lands are to provide
12 for environmental conservation and public recreation in equal
13 measure, and the lack of off-road motorized recreation
14 opportunities in Florida and opportunities on public land in
15 Volusia County is a burden on local residents as well as tourism
16 and job growth efforts, and

17 WHEREAS, off-road recreation is an appropriate and healthy
18 use due to minimal impact upon the already disturbed lands and
19 in no way impacts the former tree farm's primary value as an
20 aquifer recharge area, and

21 WHEREAS, in an effort to position east central Florida and
22 Volusia County as a unique and primary destination for off-road
23 enthusiasts in the southeastern United States, to tap the
24 benefits of increased sales tax collections and retail spending,
25 to increase year-round tourism especially in the traditionally
26 slow winter months, and to provide a true competitive

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27 | distinctiveness to Volusia County's economic development
 28 | efforts, NOW, THEREFORE,

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 30 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 32 | Section 1. (1) All on-highway vehicles, including, but
 33 | not limited to, four-wheel-drive trucks, jeeps, and sports
 34 | utility vehicles or suburban utility vehicles, shall have
 35 | unrestricted access to all existing roads and trails within the
 36 | Tiger Bay State Forest, including, but not limited to, primary
 37 | and secondary roads, tertiary roads, two-track trails, fire
 38 | trails, and access roads, with the exception of those trails
 39 | currently designated as equestrian trails and any roads and
 40 | trails within the forest set aside for the exclusive use of off-
 41 | highway vehicles such as dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and
 42 | side-by-side off-road vehicles.

43 | (2) The Florida Forest Service of the Department of
 44 | Agriculture and Consumer Services shall designate at least 5
 45 | percent but no more than 10 percent of Tiger Bay State Forest
 46 | land as an exclusive area for off-highway vehicle recreational
 47 | use. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall
 48 | set, by rule, an entry fee to access the recreational off-
 49 | highway vehicle exclusive area.

50 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.