

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund;
 3 amending s. 375.041, F.S.; providing an appropriation
 4 for certain projects related to the Indian River
 5 Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan;
 6 authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection
 7 to make grants for such projects; directing the
 8 department to submit an annual report to the Governor
 9 and Legislature; removing an obsolete provision;
 10 providing an effective date.

11
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
 14 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
 15 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

17 (3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund
 18 pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

19 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required
 20 under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,
 21 pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

22 1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million
 23 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that
 24 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set
 25 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning

26 | Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term
27 | Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades
28 | and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.
29 | From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal
30 | year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida
31 | Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in
32 | s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed
33 | under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of
34 | the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated
35 | each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the
36 | planning, design, engineering, and construction of the
37 | Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.
38 | 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the
39 | Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake
40 | Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage
41 | Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the
42 | Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand
43 | Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection
44 | and the South Florida Water Management District shall give
45 | preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce
46 | harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St.
47 | Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the
48 | purpose of performing the calculation provided in this
49 | subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to
50 | paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the

51 purposes set forth under this paragraph ~~(b)~~ shall be added to
52 the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph
53 (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be
54 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
55 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
56 purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

57 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million
58 shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,
59 protection, and management projects. For the purpose of
60 performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the
61 amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds
62 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
63 paragraph ~~(b)~~ shall be added to the amount remaining after the
64 payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the
65 distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal
66 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
67 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
68 subparagraph.

69 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually
70 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St.
71 Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to
72 the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be
73 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
74 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
75 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

76 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be
77 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019
78 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA
79 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining
80 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of
81 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in
82 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws
83 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such
84 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount
85 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be
86 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
87 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the
88 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

89 5. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million
90 shall be appropriated annually each fiscal year for projects
91 dedicated to the conservation and management of the Indian River
92 Lagoon. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to
93 the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued
94 after July 1, 2018, for the purposes set forth in this
95 subparagraph. The Department of Environmental Protection shall
96 use the funds to make grants for projects that implement the
97 updated Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and
98 Management Plan, including multiyear grants for the planning and
99 construction of such projects. The department shall coordinate
100 all such grants with the South Florida Water Management District

101 and the St. Johns River Water Management District. The
102 department, the South Florida Water Management District, and the
103 St. Johns River Water Management District shall coordinate such
104 grants with other water management districts as necessary.
105 Preference shall be given to projects for ecosystem monitoring
106 and habitat restoration, projects to connect onsite sewage
107 treatment and disposal systems to central sewer systems, and
108 projects for the management of stormwater, freshwater, and
109 agricultural discharges. Grants for sewer system connection
110 projects and discharge management projects shall require a
111 minimum 50 percent local match. Beginning January 1, 2019, and
112 each January 1 thereafter, the department shall submit a report
113 regarding the projects funded pursuant to this subparagraph to
114 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
115 the House of Representatives ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph 3.,~~
116 ~~for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as~~
117 ~~provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph~~
118 ~~expires July 1, 2018.~~

119 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.