

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Wilton Simpson
President of the Senate



Chris Sprowls
Speaker of the House of Representatives

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Chris Sprowls
Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Wilton Simpson
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 2508, 1st Eng., same being:

An act relating to environmental resources.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 981363.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

Representative Jay Trumbull, Chair

Representative Ramon Alexander, At Large

Representative David Borrero

Representative Colleen Burton, At Large

Representative Daryl Campbell

Representative Ben Diamond, At Large

Representative Fentrice Driskell, At Large

Representative Nicholas X. Duran, At Large

Representative Elizabeth Anne Fetterhoff

Representative Jason Fischer

Representative Mike Giallombardo

Representative Erin Grall, At Large

Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson

Representative Evan Jenne, At Large

Representative Chris Latvala, At Large

Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Chair

Representative Bryan Avila, At Large

Representative Kamia L. Brown, At Large

Representative James Bush , At Large

Representative Charles Wesley Clemons, Sr., At Large

Representative Brad Drake, At Large

Representative Wyman Duggan

Representative Tom Fabricio

Representative Randy Fine, At Large

Representative Joseph Geller, At Large

Representative Joy Goff-Marcil

Representative Michael Grant, At Large

Representative Blaise Ingoglia, At Large

Representative Sam H. Killebrew

Representative Thomas J. Leek, At Large

Representative Randall Scott Maggard

Representative Ralph E. Massullo, MD, At Large

Representative Lawrence McClure, At Large

Representative Travaris L. McCurdy

Representative Anika Tene Omphroy, At Large

Representative Tobin Rogers Overdorf

Representative Bobby Payne, At Large

Representative Daniel Perez, At Large

Representative Scott Plakon, At Large

Representative Rene Plasencia, At Large

Representative Paul Renner, At Large

Representative Felicia Simone Robinson

Representative Rick Roth, At Large

Representative Anthony Sabatini

Representative Josie Tomkow, At Large

Representative Matt Willhite, At Large

Representative Patricia H. Williams, At Large

Representative Jayer Williamson, At Large

Managers on the part of the House of Representatives

Senator Kelli Stargel, Chair

Senator Ben Albritton

Senator Lorraine Ausley

Senator Dennis Baxley

Senator Aaron Bean, At Large

Senator Lori Berman

Senator Lauren Book, At Large

Senator Jim Boyd

Senator Randolph Bracy

Senator Jennifer Bradley

Senator Jason Brodeur

Senator Doug Broxson

Senator Danny Burgess

Senator Janet Cruz

Senator Manny Diaz

Senator Gary M. Farmer

Senator George B. Gainer

Senator Ileana Garcia

Senator Audrey Gibson, At Large

Senator Joe Gruters

Senator Gayle Harrell

Senator Ed Hooper

Senator Travis Hutson

Senator Shevrin D. Jones

Senator Debbie Mayfield, At Large

Senator Kathleen Passidomo, At Large

Senator Keith Perry, At Large

Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo

Senator Tina Scott Polsky

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Senator Bobby Powell, At Large

Senator Ray Wesley Rodrigues

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez

Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson, At Large

Senator Wilton Simpson

Senator Linda Stewart, At Large

Senator Annette Taddeo

Senator Victor M. Torres

Senator Tom A. Wright

Conferees on the part of the Senate

The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 2508, relating to Environmental Resources, conforms statutes to funding decisions relating to environmental resources in the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Specifically, the amendment:

- Expands the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to authorize the DACS to purchase fee interests in land, in addition to less-than-fee interests in land, such as conservation easements.
- Authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to enter into agreements with public entities to expedite evaluation of environmental resource permits and Section 404 permits related to a project or activity that serves a public purpose.
- Requires the South Florida Water Management District (district) to annually certify before the release of state funds that its recommendations to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (corps) are consistent with its district programs and plans.
- Requires water shortages within the Lake Okeechobee Region to be managed pursuant to Rules 40E-21 and 40E-22 and provides that any changes to such rules may not take effect until ratified by the Legislature and presented to the Governor, or if the Legislature fails to act and present to the Governor during the next regular legislative session, such rules shall take effect after the next regular legislative session.
- Reenacts section 570.93, Florida Statutes, relating to a cost-share program for agricultural irrigation systems.
- Transfers, through a type II transfer, the William J. (Billy Joe) Rish State Park from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to the DEP.

The amendment takes effect July 1, 2022, except as otherwise expressly provided.