

By Senator Latvala

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Florida Forever Program;
providing legislative intent for the Florida
Forever Program; amending s. 201.15, F.S.;
providing for the allocation of certain taxes
collected for debt service payments pursuant to
the Florida Forever Program; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Florida Forever Program; legislative
intent.--

(1) Florida's continued population growth contributes
to the degradation of water resources, the destruction of
wildlife habitats, the loss of recreation space, and the
diminishment of wetlands and forests.

(2) The Preservation 2000 Program has provided
tremendous financial resources for the purchase of
environmentally significant lands to protect them from
imminent development and to assure that future generations
will have access to important open spaces and recreational and
conservation lands.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature to change the
focus and direction of the state's major land acquisition
programs and extend funding and bonding capabilities to meet
the needs of future generations to enjoy the outdoors and
natural resources of Florida forever.

(4) Although the Florida Forever Program will continue
to purchase lands and interests in lands of the type acquired
through the Preservation 2000 Program, the Legislature intends

1 that this new program emphasize priority needs for acquiring
2 parcels to facilitate ecosystem restoration and management; to
3 assist water management, water resource development, and water
4 supply development; to provide for coastal protection; to
5 create fixed capital outlay projects implementing approved
6 Surface Water Improvement and Management Plans and other
7 ecosystem restoration plans; and to provide green spaces and
8 fixed capital outlay projects to facilitate the enjoyment of
9 recreational opportunities.

10 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
11 201.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 201.15 Distribution of taxes collected.--All taxes
13 collected under this chapter shall be subject to the service
14 charge imposed in s. 215.20(1) and shall be distributed as
15 follows:

16 (1) Sixty-two and sixty-three hundredths percent of
17 the remaining taxes collected under this chapter shall be used
18 for the following purposes:

19 (a) Subject to the maximum amount limitations set
20 forth in this paragraph, an amount as shall be necessary to
21 pay the debt service on, or fund debt service reserve funds,
22 rebate obligations, or other amounts with respect to bonds
23 issued pursuant to s. 375.051 and payable from moneys
24 transferred to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to
25 this paragraph shall be paid into the State Treasury to the
26 credit of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to be used for such
27 purposes. The amount transferred to the Land Acquisition Trust
28 Fund shall not exceed \$90 million in fiscal year 1992-1993,
29 \$120 million in fiscal year 1993-1994, \$150 million in fiscal
30 year 1994-1995, \$180 million in fiscal year 1995-1996, \$210
31 million in fiscal year 1996-1997, and \$240 million in fiscal

1 ~~year 1997-1998, \$270 million in fiscal year 1998-1999, and~~
2 ~~\$300 million in fiscal year 1999-2000 and thereafter. After~~
3 July 1, 1998, the amount transferred for prior debt service
4 for the Preservation 2000 Program and for new debt service for
5 the Florida Forever Program may not exceed \$270 million in
6 fiscal year 1998-1999, \$300 million in fiscal year 1999-2000,
7 \$330 million in fiscal year 2000-2001, \$360 million in fiscal
8 year 2001-2002, \$390 million in fiscal year 2002-2003, \$420
9 million in fiscal year 2003-2004, \$450 million in fiscal year
10 2004-2005, \$480 million in fiscal year 2005-2006, \$510 million
11 in fiscal year 2006-2007, and \$540 million in fiscal year
12 2007-2008 and thereafter. No individual series of bonds may
13 be issued pursuant to this paragraph unless the first year's
14 debt service for such bonds is specifically appropriated in
15 the General Appropriations Act. No moneys transferred to the
16 Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to this paragraph, or
17 earnings thereon, shall be used or made available to pay debt
18 service on the Save Our Coast revenue bonds.

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the effective
20 date of a constitutional amendment extending the Land
21 Acquisition Trust Fund beyond its scheduled repeal in the year
22 2013.

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25 SENATE SUMMARY

26 Provides legislative intent for the Florida Forever
27 Program. Provides for the distribution of taxes for prior
28 debt service for the Preservation 2000 Program and for
29 new debt service for the Florida Forever Program.
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