

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy

301-341A-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to grant proposals for lake  
3           restoration; authorizing the Department of  
4           Environmental Protection to administer a grant  
5           program for funding lake-restoration projects  
6           that are not proposed under the Surface Water  
7           Improvement and Management Act; authorizing  
8           counties, municipalities, and certain nonprofit  
9           corporations to apply for such grants;  
10          requiring that the recipient provide certain  
11          matching funds; providing for a review panel to  
12          review grant applications; providing for  
13          membership of the review panel and terms of  
14          office; requiring the review panel to annually  
15          recommend grant recipients to the Secretary of  
16          Environmental Protection; providing that the  
17          department may not allocate a project grant  
18          unless the project is approved by the  
19          Legislature; authorizing the Department of  
20          Environmental Protection to adopt rules;  
21          providing an effective date.

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

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25           Section 1. Lake-restoration projects; grants for  
26 funding; approval; allocation.--

27           (1) The Department of Environmental Protection may  
28 accept and administer moneys appropriated to it for providing  
29 grants to counties, municipalities, and qualifying nonprofit  
30 corporations for funding lake-restoration projects that are  
31 not proposed or requested under the Surface Water Improvement

1 and Management Act, sections 373.451-373.4595, Florida  
2 Statutes.

3 (2) A county, municipality, or qualified corporation  
4 may apply for a grant of state funds for a lake-restoration  
5 project. As used in this section, the term "qualified  
6 corporation" means a corporation that is designated as a  
7 not-for-profit corporation pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of  
8 the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; is described in, and  
9 allowed to receive contributions pursuant to, s. 170 of the  
10 Internal Revenue Code of 1954; and is a corporation not for  
11 profit incorporated under chapter 617, Florida Statutes. The  
12 state grant must be matched by a contribution from the county,  
13 municipality, or nonprofit corporation in the amount required  
14 by rule of the department or as otherwise specified by law.

15 (3)(a) A review panel shall review each application  
16 for a grant to fund a lake-restoration project which is  
17 submitted under subsection (2). The Governor, the President of  
18 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
19 shall each appoint two members to serve on the review panel,  
20 and those six members shall jointly appoint a seventh member  
21 to the panel. Members of the panel shall be appointed to  
22 3-year terms and may not be reappointed to the panel within 1  
23 year after completing a 3-year term. In order to provide for  
24 staggered terms, the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
25 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each  
26 initially appoint one member to a 1-year term. A vacancy on  
27 the panel shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the  
28 term in the same manner as the original appointment. The  
29 review panel shall elect a chairperson from among its members  
30 to serve a 1-year term and the chairperson may be reelected.

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1           (b) The review panel shall annually submit to the  
2 Secretary of Environmental Protection for approval a list of  
3 all applications that the panel recommends be included by the  
4 Department of Environmental Protection in its legislative  
5 budget request for an award of grants, arranged in order of  
6 priority. The department may allocate grants only for projects  
7 for which the Legislature has appropriated funds. Any project  
8 that is approved and recommended by the Secretary of  
9 Environmental Protection but which is not funded by the  
10 Legislature shall be retained on the project list for the  
11 subsequent grant cycle. Thereafter, the grant applicant must  
12 submit the information required by the department in  
13 compliance with the established deadline date of the latest  
14 grant cycle in order to adequately indicate the current status  
15 of the project.

16           (4) The Department of Environmental Protection shall  
17 adopt by rule criteria to be applied by the review panel in  
18 recommending applications for the award of grants and shall  
19 adopt rules for administering this section.

20           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
21 law.

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24 SENATE SUMMARY

25 Provides for the Department of Environmental Protection  
26 to administer a grant program to fund lake-restoration  
27 projects that do not qualify for funding under the  
28 Surface Water Improvement and Management Act. Provides  
29 for grants to be awarded to counties, municipalities, and  
30 nonprofit corporations. Establishes a panel to review  
31 grant proposals and make recommendations to the Secretary  
of Environmental Protection for awarding grants. Provides  
rulemaking authority to the Department of Environmental  
Protection.