

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy

301-211A-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the re-creation of the  
3           National Forest Trust Fund; re-creating and  
4           renaming the National Forest Trust Fund;  
5           carrying forward current balances and  
6           continuing current sources and uses thereof;  
7           amending s. 215.551, F.S., to conform;  
8           providing an effective date.

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10           WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to extend the life of  
11           the National Forest Trust Fund, which is otherwise scheduled  
12           to be terminated pursuant to constitutional mandate, and

13           WHEREAS, the Legislature has reviewed the National  
14           Forest Trust Fund before its scheduled termination date and  
15           has found that it continues to meet an important public  
16           purpose, and

17           WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that existing public  
18           policy concerning the National Forest Trust Fund sets adequate  
19           parameters for its use, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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23           Section 1. (1) The National Forest Trust Fund, FLAIR  
24           number 44-2-307, which was created within the Department of  
25           Banking and Finance and which is to be terminated pursuant to  
26           Section 19(f), Article III of the State Constitution on  
27           November 4, 2000, is re-created and renamed the Federal Use of  
28           State Lands Trust Fund.

29           (2) All current balances of the trust fund are carried  
30           forward, and all current sources and uses of the trust fund  
31           are continued.

1           Section 2. Section 215.551, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3           215.551 Federal Use of State Lands ~~National Forest~~  
4 Trust Fund; county distribution.--

5           (1) The Comptroller may make distribution of the  
6 Federal Use of State Lands ~~National Forest~~ Trust Fund, when so  
7 requested by the counties in interest, of such amounts as may  
8 be accumulated in that fund.

9           (2) The Comptroller shall ascertain, from the records  
10 of the General Land Office or other departments in Washington,  
11 D.C., the number of acres of land situated in the several  
12 counties in which the Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, Ocala, and  
13 Osceola Forest Reserves are located, the number of acres of  
14 land of such forest reserve embraced in each of the counties  
15 in each of the reserves, and, also, the amount of money  
16 received by the United States Government from each of the  
17 reserves, respectively. The Comptroller shall apportion the  
18 money on hand to each county in each reserve, respectively and  
19 separately; such distribution shall be based upon the number  
20 of acres of land embraced in the Apalachicola Forest,  
21 Choctawhatchee Forest, Ocala Forest, and Osceola Forest,  
22 respectively, in each county and shall be further based upon  
23 the amount collected by the United States from each of such  
24 forests, so that such distribution, when made, will include  
25 for each county the amount due each county, based upon the  
26 receipts for the particular forest and the acreage in the  
27 particular county in which such forest is located. The  
28 Comptroller shall issue two warrants on the Treasurer in each  
29 case, the sum of which shall be the amount due each of such  
30 counties from the fund. One warrant shall be payable to the  
31 county for the county general road fund, and one warrant, of

1 equal amount, shall be payable to such county's district  
2 school board for the district school fund.

3 (3) In the event that actual figures of receipts from  
4 different reserves cannot be obtained by counties, so as to  
5 fully comply with subsections (1) and (2), the Comptroller may  
6 adjust the matter according to the United States statutes, or  
7 as may appear to him or her to be just and fair, and with the  
8 approval of all counties in interest.

9 (4) The moneys that may be received and credited to  
10 the Federal Use of State Lands ~~National Forest~~ Trust Fund are  
11 appropriated for the payment of the warrants of the  
12 Comptroller drawn on the Treasurer in pursuance of this  
13 section.

14 Section 3. This act shall take effect November 4,  
15 2000.

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18 SENATE SUMMARY

19 Re-creates the National Forest Trust Fund within the  
20 Department of Banking and Finance and renames it the  
21 Federal Use of State Lands Trust Fund.

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