

By Representatives Dockery, Putnam, Eggelletion, Feeney, Alexander, Posey, Spratt, Stansel, Bronson, Harrington, J. Miller, Patterson, Sembler, Tullis, Russell, Kyle, Prieguez, Hart, K. Smith, Bitner, Goode, Boyd, Pruitt, Sanderson, (Additional Sponsors on Last Printed Page)

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public lands; providing
3 legislative intent; creating s. 253.1201, F.S.;
4 validating certain titles derived from state
5 conveyances made which may have included
6 sovereignty lands; providing for public use of
7 certain waters; providing an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Legislative intent.--The Legislature
12 recognizes that it is in the public interest that the
13 controversy arising from the assertion of state sovereignty
14 ownership claims against private landowners who derive their
15 titles from deeds or grants issued by state agencies, which
16 purported to convey swamp and overflowed lands, internal
17 improvement lands, or other nonsovereignty lands, but may have
18 included sovereignty lands, including tidelands, within the
19 boundaries of the legal description, be resolved expeditiously
20 and economically, in a manner that is equitable to the private
21 landowners but that preserves the people's right to use the
22 navigable waters within the state for boating, fishing, and
23 swimming.

24 Section 2. Section 253.1201, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 253.1201 Certain titles derived from state conveyances
27 heretofore made that may have included sovereignty lands,
28 including tidelands, ratified, confirmed, and validated.--Any
29 title to real property that is derived from a deed or grant
30 heretofore made by the Board of Trustees of the Internal
31 Improvement Trust Fund, or by any other state agency, which

1 purported to convey swamp and overflowed lands, internal
2 improvement lands, or other non-sovereignty public lands is
3 hereby ratified, confirmed, and validated in all respects,
4 notwithstanding that sovereignty lands, including tidelands,
5 may have been included within the boundaries of the legal
6 description of the land purportedly conveyed in the deed or
7 grant, if:

8 (1) The title held by the present landowner is derived
9 from a deed or grant issued by the Board of Trustees of the
10 Internal Improvement Trust Fund, or by any other state agency,
11 and appears on its face to be a valid conveyance of lands that
12 the issuing agency was then authorized by law to convey,
13 without express reservation of or deduction for any
14 sovereignty lands, including tidelands; and

15 (2) The acreage conveyed has been classified as
16 private property for ad valorem tax assessment purposes,
17
18 provided, however, that nothing contained in this section
19 shall affect the public's right to use any navigable waters on
20 such lands for boating, fishing, and swimming.

21 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
22 law.

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24 HOUSE SUMMARY

25
26 Provides that any title to real property that is derived
27 from a deed or grant heretofore made by the Board of
28 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, or by
29 any other state agency, which purported to convey swamp
30 and overflowed lands, internal improvement lands, or
31 other non-sovereignty public lands is hereby ratified,
confirmed, and validated in all respects, notwithstanding
that sovereignty lands may have been included within the
legal description of the land purportedly conveyed in the
deed or grant under described circumstances. See bill for
details.

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