

5STORAGE NAME: h2153.ga

DATE: March 24, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 2153 (PCB GA 00-20)

RELATING TO: Creating the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program Trust Fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

SPONSOR(S): Committee on General Appropriations and Representative Sembler

TIED BILL(S):

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS YEAS 17 NAYS 0
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

Creates the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide for the management of conservation and recreation lands by the department.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Land management has been a legislative concern for a number of years, with continuing questions raised over whether state lands already under public ownership are being properly managed. As a result of these concerns, the 1997 Legislature increased the amount of the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund reserved for land management to 1.5% of the cumulative total of Preservation 2000 (and now Florida Forever) bond proceeds. Since the cumulative total of bond proceeds increases by approximately \$300 million each year, the actual appropriations for land management activities from the CARL Trust Fund increased from \$12 million in FY 1995-96 to over \$44 million in FY 1999-2000.

These funds have been allocated to land management agencies (Department of Environmental Protection, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, and Department of State) through a formula developed by the Executive Office of the Governor which is based on acreage and the associated costs to manage the various types of lands. Funds are distributed through the Department of Environmental Protection's budget and agencies request spending authority for the CARL funds through their agency legislative budget request.

With the exception of the Department of Environmental Protection, land management agencies receive the CARL management funds in an existing agency trust fund for disbursement. Once budget authority is provided in the agency trust fund, there is currently no way to identify these expenditures as CARL management funds.

As these expenditures, as well as identified management needs, have increased over the last few years, it has become more important for agencies to consistently report their land management costs. Since these costs are not segregated in the budget, it has become very difficult for the legislature to evaluate the total land management costs and make comparisons between agencies, local governments and the private sector to ensure that available revenues are maximized.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill creates the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide visibility for conservation and recreation land management appropriations and expenditures.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Creates the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program Trust Fund, in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to provide for the management of conservation and recreation lands by the department. Allows funds to be appropriated to the trust fund from the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund in the Department of Environmental Protection or from other sources as the Legislature may determine. Provides that any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund in order to carry out the purposes of the fund. States that the fund shall be terminated on July 1, 2004, unless terminated sooner, and prior to termination, shall be subject to the trust fund review process.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2000.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

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D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require municipalities or counties to spend money.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority of municipalities or counties to raise revenue.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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