

By Senator Burt

16-1371-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to manatees; amending s.  
3           370.12, F.S.; providing for an additional  
4           source of funds for manatee rehabilitation;  
5           providing criteria for reimbursement for  
6           manatee rescue and care; providing an effective  
7           date.

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

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11           Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 370.12, Florida  
12   Statutes, is amended to read:

13           370.12 Marine animals; regulation.--

14           (4) ANNUAL FUNDING OF PROGRAMS FOR MARINE ANIMALS.--

15           (b) Each fiscal year moneys in the Save the Manatee  
16   Trust Fund shall also be used, pursuant to s. 328.76(1)(b), to  
17   reimburse the cost of activities related to manatee  
18   rehabilitation by facilities that rescue, rehabilitate, and  
19   release manatees as authorized pursuant to the Fish and  
20   Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the  
21   Interior. Such facilities must be involved in the actual  
22   rescue and full-time acute care veterinarian-based  
23   rehabilitation of manatees. The cost of activities includes,  
24   but is not limited to, costs associated with expansion,  
25   capital outlay, repair, maintenance, and operations related to  
26   the rescue, treatment, stabilization, maintenance, release,  
27   and monitoring of manatees. Moneys distributed through  
28   contractual agreement to each facility for manatee  
29   rehabilitation shall be proportionate to the number of  
30   manatees under acute care rehabilitation, the number of  
31   maintenance days in the facility, and the number of manatees

1 ~~those~~ released during the previous fiscal year. The  
2 reimbursement amounts available to be distributed if needed  
3 are the total amount available under s. 328.72(11), s.  
4 328.76(1)(b), and 25 percent of the total amount of annual  
5 user fees from the manatee license plates provided for in s.  
6 320.08058(1). If these funds are not distributed in any 1  
7 year, they must be carried over for distribution in subsequent  
8 years.~~However, the reimbursement may not exceed the total~~  
9 ~~amount available pursuant to ss. 328.72(11) and 328.76(1)(b)~~  
10 ~~for the purposes provided in this paragraph.~~Prior to  
11 receiving reimbursement for the expenses of rescue,  
12 rehabilitation, and release, a facility that qualifies under  
13 state and federal regulations shall submit a plan to the Fish  
14 and Wildlife Conservation Commission for assisting the  
15 commission and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
16 Vehicles in marketing the manatee specialty license plates. At  
17 a minimum, the plan shall include provisions for graphics,  
18 dissemination of brochures, recorded oral and visual  
19 presentation, and maintenance of a marketing exhibit. The plan  
20 shall be updated annually, and the Fish and Wildlife  
21 Conservation Commission shall inspect each marketing exhibit  
22 at least once each year to ensure the quality of the exhibit  
23 and promotional material. Each facility that receives funds  
24 for manatee rehabilitation shall annually provide the  
25 commission a written report, within 30 days after the close of  
26 the state fiscal year, documenting the efforts and  
27 effectiveness of the facility's promotional activities.

28           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.  
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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides criteria for reimbursement for and an additional source of funds for manatee rehabilitation.