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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to protection of manatees; amending s.
 370.12, F.S.; providing that a portion of the proceeds of
 the Save the Manatee Trust Fund shall be used for funding
 law enforcement positions within the Fish and Wildlife
 Conservation Commission for enforcement of laws designed
 to protect manatee populations in certain counties;
 requiring additional information to be included in an
 annual report regarding expenditure of the funds in the
 trust fund; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) of
 section 370.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

370.12 Marine animals; regulation.--

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

(a) Each fiscal year the first \$2 million of funds
~~deposited into~~ the Save the Manatee Trust Fund shall be used
~~available~~ to fund law enforcement positions within the Fish and
Wildlife Conservation Commission for the purpose of enforcing
laws designed to protect manatee populations. Persons employed
in such positions shall be assigned to perform their law
enforcement duties in counties having the highest incidences of
manatee deaths and injuries. The remainder shall be available to
fund an impartial scientific benchmark census of the manatee
 population in the state. Weather permitting, the study shall be
 conducted annually by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
 Commission and the results shall be made available to the
 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of



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31 Representatives, and the Governor and Cabinet for use in the
32 evaluation and development of manatee protection measures. In
33 addition, the Save the Manatee Trust Fund shall be available for
34 annual funding of activities of public and private organizations
35 and those of the commission intended to provide manatee and
36 marine mammal protection and recovery effort; manufacture and
37 erection of informational and regulatory signs; production,
38 publication, and distribution of educational materials;
39 participation in manatee and marine mammal research programs,
40 including carcass salvage and other programs; programs intended
41 to assist the recovery of the manatee as an endangered species,
42 assist the recovery of the endangered or threatened marine
43 mammals, and prevent the endangerment of other species of marine
44 mammals; and other similar programs intended to protect and
45 enhance the recovery of the manatee and other species of marine
46 mammals. The commission shall annually solicit advisory
47 recommendations from the Save the Manatee Committee affiliated
48 with the Save the Manatee Club, as identified and recognized in
49 Executive Order 85-19, on the use of funds from the Save the
50 Manatee Trust Fund.

51 (b) By December 1 each year, the Fish and Wildlife
52 Conservation Commission shall provide the President of the
53 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written
54 report, enumerating the amounts and purposes for which all
55 proceeds in the Save the Manatee Trust Fund for the previous
56 fiscal year are expended, in a manner consistent with those
57 recovery tasks enumerated within the manatee recovery plan as
58 required by the Endangered Species Act. Such report shall
59 identify the number of additional law enforcement positions



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60 which were funded and shall provide a list of the counties to
61 which the personnel were assigned.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.