

HB 1023

2006

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to playgrounds; amending s. 375.075, F.S.;
3 requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to
4 adopt by rule a program to provide funding to local
5 governments to construct boundless playgrounds; defining
6 the term "boundless playground"; 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. Section 375.075, Florida Statutes, is amended
12 to read:

13 375.075 Outdoor recreation; financial assistance to local
14 governments; boundless playgrounds.--

15 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection is
16 authorized to establish the Florida Recreation Development
17 Assistance Program to provide grants to qualified local
18 governmental entities to acquire or develop land for public
19 outdoor recreation purposes. To the extent not needed for debt
20 service on bonds issued pursuant to s. 375.051, each year the
21 department shall develop and plan a program which shall be based
22 upon funding of not less than 5 percent of the money credited to
23 the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15(2) and (3)
24 in that year. Beginning fiscal year 2001-2002, the department
25 shall develop and plan a program which shall be based upon the
26 cumulative total funding provided from this section and from the
27 Florida Forever Trust Fund pursuant to s. 259.105(3)(c).

28 (2)(a) The department shall adopt, by rule, procedures to
 29 govern the program, which shall include, but need not be limited
 30 to, a competitive project selection process designed to maximize
 31 the outdoor recreation benefit to the public.

32 (b) Selection criteria shall, at a minimum, rank:

33 1. The extent to which the project would implement the
 34 outdoor recreation goals, objectives, and priorities specified
 35 in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan; and

36 2. The extent to which the project would provide for
 37 priority resource or facility needs in the region as specified
 38 in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

39 (c) No release of funds from the Land Acquisition Trust
 40 Fund, or from the Florida Forever Trust Fund beginning in fiscal
 41 year 2001-2002, for this program may be made for these public
 42 recreation projects until the projects have been selected
 43 through the competitive selection process provided for in this
 44 section.

45 (3) A local government may submit up to two grant
 46 applications during each application period announced by the
 47 department. However, a local government may not have more than
 48 three active projects expending grant funds during any state
 49 fiscal year. The maximum project grant for each project
 50 application may not exceed \$200,000 in state funds.

51 (4) The department shall adopt by rule a program
 52 consistent with the requirements of this section to provide
 53 funding for boundless playgrounds. The term "boundless
 54 playground" means a playground with a barrier-free environment
 55 designed for children of all abilities, including those with

HB 1023

2006

56 physical, developmental, cognitive, and sensory disabilities, to
57 experience independent self-directed play, each at his or her
58 own highest level of ability, and includes accessible play
59 components and equipment that engage and provide access for
60 children with various motor impairments.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.