

By Senator Bennett

21-978-06

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to state appropriations;  
3           requiring that certain funds remaining  
4           undistributed on a specified date be returned  
5           to the General Revenue Fund; appropriating the  
6           funds to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
7           Economic Development for the purpose of funding  
8           the Scripps Florida Funding Corporation if  
9           certain contracts are executed; providing for  
10          the funds to be returned unallocated to the  
11          General Revenue Fund if such contracts are not  
12          executed by the end of the 2006-2007 fiscal  
13          year; providing an effective date.  
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15           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that having The Scripps  
16          Research Institute and other biomedical research firms locate  
17          in Florida is vital to the state's efforts to improve and  
18          diversify its economic outlook, and  
19           WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that any delay  
20          in the construction of a permanent facility to house The  
21          Scripps Research Institute may jeopardize the economic impact  
22          of the facility for the state, and  
23           WHEREAS, a poor economy is injurious to the health,  
24          safety, and welfare of Floridians, and  
25           WHEREAS, the state spends billions of dollars each year  
26          treating major diseases, and  
27           WHEREAS, the acceleration of biomedical research and  
28          development projects may lead to prevention, new treatments,  
29          and cures for some of these diseases, and  
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**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1           WHEREAS, the construction of The Scripps Research  
2 Institute will greatly aid the state in its essential role of  
3 protecting the health of its residents, and

4           WHEREAS, the selected site for the permanent facility  
5 for The Scripps Research Institute in Palm Beach County may  
6 require an extensive environmental-impact assessment, and

7           WHEREAS, the state may purchase the 92,976-acre Babcock  
8 Ranch located in Charlotte and Lee Counties for which a  
9 private developer has been granted an option, and

10           WHEREAS, purchasing the Babcock Ranch will preserve  
11 more than 74,000 acres in perpetuity which will in turn  
12 protect species biodiversity, serve as a recharge area for  
13 southwest Florida's supply of drinking water, and provide  
14 recreational opportunities for the public, and

15           WHEREAS, the remaining 19,500 acres of the Babcock  
16 Ranch may receive approval for single-family residences and  
17 commercial space and could accommodate a town of 48,000  
18 residents, and

19           WHEREAS, the required commercial space for The Scripps  
20 Research Institute may be accommodated in the planning for the  
21 19,500 acres of the Babcock Ranch which are intended for  
22 development, and

23           WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to expedite the  
24 construction of a permanent facility for The Scripps Research  
25 Institute by making continued funding for the Scripps Florida  
26 Funding Corporation contingent upon constructing the permanent  
27 facility for the institute on the 19,500 acres of the Babcock  
28 Ranch which the developer is retaining for development, NOW,  
29 THEREFORE,

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

1           Section 1. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of  
2 chapter 2003-420, Laws of Florida, all funds remaining  
3 undistributed on July 1, 2006, from the \$310-million  
4 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Office of  
5 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for the purpose of  
6 funding the Scripps Florida Funding Corporation shall be  
7 returned immediately to the General Revenue Fund.

8           (2) For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the funds  
9 transferred to the General Revenue Fund under subsection (1)  
10 are appropriated to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
11 Development for the purpose of funding the Scripps Florida  
12 Funding Corporation. The funds shall be distributed to the  
13 corporation only if:

14           (a) A contract is executed for constructing the  
15 permanent facility for The Scripps Research Institute on the  
16 19,500 acres of the Babcock Ranch which is retained by the  
17 private developer for development; and

18           (b) A contract is executed for the sale of the  
19 remaining portion of the Babcock Ranch, which is approximately  
20 74,476 acres, to the Board of Trustees of the Internal  
21 Improvement Trust Fund.

22           (3) If the private developer and the Board of Trustees  
23 of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund do not execute a  
24 contract for the sale of the remaining portion of the Babcock  
25 Ranch as part of the Florida Forever program or if the  
26 contract to construct the permanent facility for The Scripps  
27 Research Institute on the acreage retained by the private  
28 developer is not executed by the end of the 2006-2007 fiscal  
29 year, the funds appropriated under this act shall be returned  
30 unallocated to the General Revenue Fund.

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1           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
2 law.

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5                           SENATE SUMMARY

6           Requires that certain funds that remained undistributed  
7           on July 1, 2006, be returned to the General Revenue Fund.  
8           Provides for those funds to be reappropriated to the  
9           Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for  
10           the purpose of funding the Scripps Florida Funding  
11           Corporation if contracts are executed to construct The  
12           Scripps Research Institute on the Babcock Ranch and to  
13           sell a portion of the Babcock Ranch to the Board of  
14           Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. Provides  
15           for the funds to be returned unallocated to the General  
16           Revenue Fund if such contracts are not executed by the  
17           end of the 2006-2007 fiscal year.  
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