

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The State Resources Council recommends the following:

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3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to hunting lands; creating s. 372.0025,
7 F.S.; providing definitions; requiring certain lands
8 owned, managed, or leased by the Fish and Wildlife
9 Conservation Commission to be used for the purpose of
10 hunting; requiring the commission to support, promote, and
11 enhance hunting opportunities; requiring the commission to
12 provide comparable acreage for any loss of existing
13 hunting lands; providing requirements for location and use
14 of replacement lands; requiring state agencies and water
15 management districts to allow certain lands to be used for
16 the purpose of hunting; requiring annual reports to the
17 commission and Legislature; providing an effective date.

18
19 WHEREAS, section 372.002, Florida Statutes, protects the
20 right of citizens of this state to hunt, and

21 WHEREAS, access and availability of hunting lands is
22 essential to the exercise of that right, NOW, THEREFORE,
23

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

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Section 1. Section 372.0025, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

372.0025 No net loss of hunting lands.--

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Commission" means the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(b) "Commission-managed lands" means those lands owned by the commission, those lands owned by the state over which the commission holds management authority, or those privately owned lands that are leased or managed by the commission.

(c) "Hunting" means the lawful pursuit, trapping, shooting, capture, collection, or killing of wildlife or the lawful attempt to pursue, trap, shoot, capture, collect, or kill wildlife.

(2) Commission-managed lands shall be open to access and use for hunting except as limited by the commission for reasons of public safety, fish or wildlife management, or homeland security or as otherwise limited by law.

(3) The commission, in exercising its authority under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its authority, consistent with subsection (2), in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances hunting opportunities to the extent authorized by state law.

(4) Commission land management decisions and actions, including decisions made by private owners to close hunting land managed by the commission, shall not result in any net loss of

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52 habitat land acreage available for hunting opportunities on
53 commission-managed lands that exists on the effective date of
54 this act. The commission shall expeditiously find replacement
55 acreage for hunting to compensate for closures of any existing
56 hunting land. Replacement lands shall, to the greatest extent
57 possible, be located within the same administrative region of
58 the commission and shall be consistent with the hunting
59 discipline that the commission allowed on the closed land.

60 (5) Any state agency or water management district that
61 owns or manages lands shall assist and coordinate and cooperate
62 with the commission to allow hunting on such lands if such lands
63 are determined by the commission to be suitable for hunting. To
64 ensure no net loss of land acreage available for hunting, state
65 agencies and water management districts shall cooperate with the
66 commission to open new, additional hunting lands to replace lost
67 hunting acreage.

68 (6) By October 1 of each year, the executive director of
69 the commission shall submit to the Legislature a written report
70 describing:

71 (a) The acreage managed by the commission that was closed
72 to hunting during the previous fiscal year and the reasons for
73 the closures.

74 (b) The acreage managed by the commission that was opened
75 to hunting to compensate for closures of existing land pursuant
76 to subsection (4).

77 (7) By October 1 of each year, any state agency or water
78 management district that owns or manages lands shall submit a

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79 | written report to the commission and the Legislature that
80 | includes:

81 | (a) A list of properties that were open for hunting during
82 | the previous fiscal year.

83 | (b) A list of properties that were not open for hunting
84 | during the previous fiscal year.

85 | (c) The acreage for each property and the county where
86 | each property is located, except for right-of-way lands and
87 | parcels under 50 acres.

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