

By Senator Saunders

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to state lands; amending s.
259.105, F.S.; eliminating obsolete provisions
relating to the review of rules by the
Legislature; amending s. 259.1052, F.S.;
eliminating obsolete provisions relating to the
disbursement of funds from the Florida Forever
Trust Fund; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (18) of section 259.105, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

259.105 The Florida Forever Act.--

(18) The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall
recommend adoption of rules by the board of trustees necessary
to implement the provisions of this section relating to:
solicitation, scoring, selecting, and ranking of Florida
Forever project proposals; disposing of or leasing lands or
water areas selected for funding through the Florida Forever
program; and the process of reviewing and recommending for
approval or rejection the land management plans associated
with publicly owned properties. ~~Rules promulgated pursuant to
this subsection shall be submitted to the President of the
Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for
review by the Legislature, no later than 30 days prior to the
2001 Regular Session and shall become effective only after
legislative review. In its review, the Legislature may reject,
modify, or take no action relative to such rules. The board of
trustees shall conform such rules to changes made by the~~

1 ~~Legislature, or, if no action was taken by the Legislature,~~
2 ~~such rules shall become effective.~~

3 Section 2. Section 259.1052, Florida Statutes, is
4 amended to read:

5 259.1052 Babcock Crescent B Ranch Florida Forever
6 acquisition; conditions for purchase.--

7 (1) The acquisition of the state's portion of the
8 Babcock Crescent B Ranch by the Board of Trustees of the
9 Internal Improvement Trust Fund is a conservation acquisition
10 under the Florida Forever program created in s. 259.105, with
11 a goal of sustaining the ecological and economic integrity of
12 the property being acquired while allowing the business of the
13 ranch to operate and prosper.

14 (2) The Babcock Crescent B Ranch constitutes a unique
15 land mass that has significant scientific, cultural,
16 historical, recreational, ecological, wildlife, fisheries, and
17 productive values. The property is part of a potential
18 greenway of undeveloped land extending from Lake Okeechobee to
19 the east and Charlotte Harbor to the west. The natural beauty
20 and abundant resources of the ranch provide numerous public
21 recreational opportunities such as hiking, fishing, camping,
22 horseback riding, and hunting.

23 (3) The Legislature recognizes that the acquisition of
24 the state's portion of the Babcock Crescent B Ranch represents
25 a unique opportunity to assist in preserving the largest
26 private and undeveloped single-ownership tract of land in
27 Charlotte County. The Legislature further recognizes Lee
28 County as a partner in the acquisition of the ranch.

29 (4) This section authorizes the acquisition of the
30 state's portion of the Babcock Crescent B Ranch in order to
31 protect and preserve for future generations the scientific,

1 scenic, historic, and natural values of the ranch, including
2 rivers and ecosystems; to protect and preserve the
3 archaeological, geological, and cultural resources of the
4 ranch; to provide for species recovery; and to provide
5 opportunities for public recreation.

6 (5) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and
7 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall be
8 the lead managing agencies responsible for the management of
9 Babcock Crescent B Ranch.

10 ~~(6) In addition to distributions authorized under s.~~
11 ~~259.105(3), the Department of Environmental Protection is~~
12 ~~authorized to distribute \$310 million in revenues from the~~
13 ~~Florida Forever Trust Fund. This distribution shall represent~~
14 ~~payment in full for the portion of the Babcock Crescent B~~
15 ~~Ranch to be acquired by the state under this section.~~

16 ~~(7) As used in this section, the term "state's portion~~
17 ~~of the Babcock Crescent B Ranch" comprises those lands to be~~
18 ~~conveyed by special warranty deed to the Board of Trustees of~~
19 ~~the Internal Improvement Trust Fund under the provisions of~~
20 ~~the agreement for sale and purchase executed by the Board of~~
21 ~~Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the Fish and~~
22 ~~Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of~~
23 ~~Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the participating local~~
24 ~~government, as purchaser, and MSKP, III, a Florida~~
25 ~~corporation, as seller.~~

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
27 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Deletes obsolete provisions relating to the review of
rules by the Legislature and the disbursement of funds
from the Florida Forever Trust Fund.