4/30/2008 4:00 PM



CHAMBER ACTION

Senate House Floor: 1/AD/3R

Senator Saunders moved the following amendment:

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Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (18) is added to section 253.03, Florida Statutes, to read:

253.03 Board of trustees to administer state lands; lands enumerated. --

(18) The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund may ensure the preservation and regeneration of seagrass, as defined in s. 253.04(4)(a)2., by providing for the establishment of seagrass mitigation banks, pursuant to s. 373.4136, to offset the unavoidable impacts of projects where such banks meet the applicable public interest test of chapters 253 and 258. This subsection shall not prohibit mitigation for impacts to seagrass or other habitats on sovereignty submerged

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lands for other types of projects, or for projects occurring on nonsovereign submerged lands, upon applicable approval of the board of trustees.

Section 2. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (5) of section 253.034, Florida Statutes, to read:

253.034 State-owned lands; uses.--

(5) Each manager of conservation lands shall submit to the Division of State Lands a land management plan at least every 10 years in a form and manner prescribed by rule by the board and in accordance with the provisions of s. 259.032. Each manager of conservation lands shall also update a land management plan whenever the manager proposes to add new facilities or make substantive land use or management changes that were not addressed in the approved plan, or within 1 year of the addition of significant new lands. Each manager of nonconservation lands shall submit to the Division of State Lands a land use plan at least every 10 years in a form and manner prescribed by rule by the board. The division shall review each plan for compliance with the requirements of this subsection and the requirements of the rules established by the board pursuant to this section. All land use plans, whether for single-use or multiple-use properties, shall include an analysis of the property to determine if any significant natural or cultural resources are located on the property. Such resources include archaeological and historic sites, state and federally listed plant and animal species, and imperiled natural communities and unique natural features. If such resources occur on the property, the manager shall consult with the Division of State Lands and other appropriate agencies to develop management strategies to protect such resources. Land use plans shall also provide for the control

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of invasive nonnative plants and conservation of soil and water resources, including a description of how the manager plans to control and prevent soil erosion and soil or water contamination. Land use plans submitted by a manager shall include reference to appropriate statutory authority for such use or uses and shall conform to the appropriate policies and quidelines of the state land management plan. Plans for managed areas larger than 1,000 acres shall contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the property, which analysis shall include the potential of the property to generate revenues to enhance the management of the property. Additionally, the plan shall contain an analysis of the potential use of private land managers to facilitate the restoration or management of these lands. In those cases where a newly acquired property has a valid conservation plan that was developed by a soil and conservation district, such plan shall be used to guide management of the property until a formal land use plan is completed.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2010, and every 3 years thereafter, state-owned lands with an approved land management plan shall be monitored for land management activities by a monitoring team. The Division of State Lands shall coordinate the activities of the monitoring team, which shall consist of three members. One member shall be selected by the Executive Director of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or a designee, and shall have experience with applied habitat management. One member shall be selected by the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection or a designee, and shall have experience with public recreation or use administration. One member shall be selected by the Commissioner of Agriculture or a designee, and shall have experience with applied land management. The Division of State

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Lands shall provide the monitoring team with the operational report prepared pursuant to s. 259.037(6). The monitoring team shall prepare a monitoring report that assesses the progress towards achieving short-term and long-term land management goals, as identified in the operational report, and shall propose corrective actions for identified deficiencies in management activities. The monitoring report shall be submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council and the managing agency. The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall review the monitoring report and determine whether the deficiencies warrant a corrective action plan or revisions to the management plan. Significant and recurring deficiencies shall be brought to the Board of Trustees, which shall determine whether the corrective actions being proposed by the land manager and the Acquisition and Restoration Council sufficiently address the deficiencies. Corrective action plans shall be prepared and submitted in the same manner as land management plans.

Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 253.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

253.04 Duty of board to protect, etc., state lands; state may join in any action brought .--

(4) Whenever any person or the agent of any person knowingly refuses to comply with or willfully violates any of the provisions of this chapter so that such person causes damage to the lands of the state or products thereof, including removal of those products, such violator is liable for such damage. Whenever two or more persons or their agents cause damage, and if such damage is indivisible, each violator is jointly and severally liable for such damage; however, if such damage is divisible and may be attributed to a particular violator or violators, each

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violator is liable only for that damage and subject to the fine attributable to his or her violation.

- (a) The duty to conserve and improve state-owned lands and the products thereof shall include the preservation and regeneration of seagrass, which is deemed essential to the oceans, gulfs, estuaries, and shorelines of the state. Any person operating a vessel outside a lawfully marked channel in a careless manner that causes seagrass scarring within an aquatic preserve established in ss. 258.39-258.399 with the exception of the Lake Jackson, Oklawaha River, Wekiva River, and Rainbow Springs aquatic preserves, commits a civil infraction, punishable as provided in s. 327.73. Each violation is a separate offense. As used in this subsection, the term:
- 1. "Seagrass scarring" means destruction of seagrass roots, shoots or stems that results in tracks on the substrate, caused by the operation of a motorized vessel in waters supporting seagrasses, commonly referred to as prop-scars or propeller scars.
- 2. "Seagrasses" means Cuban shoal grass (Halodule wrightii), turtle grass (Thalassia testudinum), manatee grass (Syringodium filiforme), star grass (Halophila engelmannii), paddle grass (Halophila decipiens), Johnsons seagrass (Halophila johnsonii) or widgeon grass (Ruppia maritima).
- (b) Any violation of this subsection is a violation of the boating laws of this state and shall be charged on a uniform boating citation as provided in s. 327.74. Any person who refuses to post a bond or accept and sign a uniform boating citation commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, as provided in s. 327.73(3), punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.



Section 4. Subsection (6) is added to section 259.037, Florida Statutes, to read:

259.037 Land Management Uniform Accounting Council. --

- (6) Beginning July 1, 2010, and every 3 years thereafter, each reporting agency shall also submit an operational report for each management area along with an approved management plan. The report should assess the progress toward achieving short-term and long-term management goals of the approved management plan, including all land management activities, and identify any deficiencies in management and corrective actions to address identified deficiencies as appropriate. This report shall be submitted to the Division of State Lands for inclusion in its annual report required pursuant to s. 259.036.
- Section 5. Paragraph (x) of subsection (1) of section 327.73, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 327.73 Noncriminal infractions.--
- (1) Violations of the following provisions of the vessel laws of this state are noncriminal infractions:
- (x) Section 253.04(4)(a), relating to carelessly causing seagrass scarring, for which the civil penalty is:
 - 1. Fifty dollars upon conviction for a first offense.
- 2. Two hundred and fifty dollars upon conviction for a second offense occurring within 12 months after a prior conviction.
- 3. Five hundred dollars upon conviction for a third offense occurring within 36 months after a prior conviction.
- 4. One thousand dollars upon conviction for a fourth or subsequent offense.

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Any person cited for a violation of any such provision shall be deemed to be charged with a noncriminal infraction, shall be cited for such an infraction, and shall be cited to appear before the county court. The civil penalty for any such infraction is \$50, except as otherwise provided in this section. Any person who fails to appear or otherwise properly respond to a uniform boating citation shall, in addition to the charge relating to the violation of the boating laws of this state, be charged with the offense of failing to respond to such citation and, upon conviction, be quilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. A written warning to this effect shall be provided at the time such uniform boating citation is issued.

Section 6. Paragraph (m) of subsection (2) of section 370.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

370.021 Administration; rules, publications, records; penalties; injunctions. --

- (2) MAJOR VIOLATIONS. -- In addition to the penalties provided in paragraphs (1)(a) and (b), the court shall assess additional penalties against any commercial harvester convicted of major violations as follows:
- (m) For a violation involving the taking or harvesting of any marine life species, as those species are defined by rule of the commission, the harvest of which is prohibited, or the taking or harvesting of such a species out of season, or with an illegal gear or chemical, or any violation involving the possession of 25 or more individual specimens of marine life species, or any combination of violations in any 3-year period involving more than 70 such specimens in the aggregate, the suspension or



revocation of the licenseholder's marine life endorsement as provided in paragraph (h).

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The penalty provisions of this subsection apply to commercial harvesters and wholesale and retail dealers as defined in s. 370.07. Any other person who commits a major violation under this subsection commits a Level Three violation under s. 372.83. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 948.01, no court may suspend, defer, or withhold adjudication of guilt or imposition of sentence for any major violation prescribed in this subsection. The proceeds from the penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used for marine fisheries research or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.

Section 7. Subsection (4), paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 370.061, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 370.061 Confiscation, seizure, and forfeiture of property

and products. --

- (4) DESTRUCTION OR DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY. -- All property forfeited under this section may be destroyed, used by the commission, disposed of by gift to charitable or state institutions, or sold, with the proceeds derived from the sale deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used for law enforcement purposes, or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.
- (5) CONFISCATION AND SALE OF PERISHABLE SALTWATER PRODUCTS; PROCEDURE. --

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(c) In the event of acquittal, the proceeds of a sale or the bond or cash deposit required by this subsection shall be returned to the defendant. In the event of a conviction, the proceeds of a sale or the bond or cash deposit required by this subsection shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used for law enforcement purposes or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. Such deposit into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund or the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund shall constitute confiscation.

Section 8. Section 372.73, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

372.73 Confiscation and disposition of illegally taken wildlife, freshwater fish, and saltwater fish game. --

(1) All wildlife, game and freshwater fish, and saltwater fish seized under the authority of this chapter, any other chapter, or rules of the commission shall, upon conviction of the offender or sooner in accordance with a court order if the court so orders, be forfeited to the investigating law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency may elect to retain the wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish for the agency's official use; transfer it to another unit of state or local government for official use; donate it to a charitable organization; sell it at public sale, pursuant to the provisions of s. 705.103; or destroy the wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish if none of the other options are practicable or if the wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish is unwholesome or otherwise not of appreciable value. All live wildlife, freshwater fish, and saltwater fish, the possession of which is unlawful, shall be properly documented as evidence as provided in

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- s. 372.731, and returned to the habitat unharmed, except that nonnative species may be released only as allowed by rules of the commission. Any unclaimed wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish shall be retained by the investigating law enforcement agency and disposed of in accordance with the above provisions and given to some hospital or charitable institution and receipt therefor sent to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- (2) All furs or hides or fur-bearing animals seized under the authority of this chapter shall, upon conviction of the offender, be forfeited and sent to the commission, which shall sell the same and deposit the proceeds of such sale to the credit of the State Game Trust Fund or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. If any such hides or furs are seized and the offender is unknown, the court shall order such hides or furs sent to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which shall sell such hides and furs.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided, and deposit the proceeds of any such sale pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue to be deposited to the credit of the State Game Trust Fund or the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.
- (4) Any state, municipal, or county law enforcement agency that enforces or assists the commission in enforcing the provisions of this chapter, which results in a forfeiture of property as provided in this section, shall be entitled to receive all or a share of any property based upon its participation in such enforcement.

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Section 9. Section 372.731, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

372.731 Photographs of illegally taken wildlife, freshwater fish, and saltwater fish. -- In any prosecution for a violation of chapter 370, this chapter, or rules of the commission, a photograph of the illegally taken wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish may be deemed competent evidence of such property and may be admissible in the prosecution to the same extent as if such wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish were introduced as evidence. Such photograph shall bear a written description of the wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish alleged to have been illegally taken, the name of the violator, the location where the alleged wrongful taking occurred, the name of the investigating law enforcement officer, the date the photograph was taken, and the name of the photographer. Such writing shall be made under oath by the investigating law enforcement officer, and the photograph shall be identified by the signature of the photographer.

Section 10. Subsection (5) of section 372.9901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

372.9901 Seizure of illegal hunting devices; disposition; notice; forfeiture. -- In order to protect the state's wildlife resources, any vehicle, vessel, animal, gun, light, or other hunting device used or attempted to be used in connection with, as an instrumentality of, or in aiding and abetting in the commission of an offense prohibited by s. 372.99 is subject to seizure and forfeiture. The provisions of chapter 932 do not apply to any seizure or forfeiture under this section. For purposes of this section, a conviction is any disposition other than acquittal or dismissal.

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(5) All amounts received from the sale or other disposition of the property shall be paid into the State Game Trust Fund or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. If the property is not sold or converted, it shall be delivered to the executive director of the commission.

Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 372.9904, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

372.9904 Seizure of illegal transportation devices; disposition; appraisal; forfeiture. --

- (3) Upon conviction of the violator, the property, if owned by the person convicted, shall be forfeited to the state under the procedure set forth in ss. 370.061 and 370.07, when not inconsistent with this section. All amounts received from the sale or other disposition of the property shall be paid into the State Game Trust Fund or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. If the property is not sold or converted, it shall be delivered to the director of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Section 12. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) of section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 932.7055 Disposition of liens and forfeited property.--
- (6) If the seizing agency is a state agency, all remaining proceeds shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. However, if the seizing agency is:
- (e) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the State Game Trust Fund as provided in ss. 372.73, 372.9901, and 372.9904, into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund as provided in

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s. 370.061, or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.

Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 253.002, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

253.002 Department of Environmental Protection, water management districts, and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; duties with respect to state lands. --

The Department of Environmental Protection shall perform all staff duties and functions related to the acquisition, administration, and disposition of state lands, title to which is or will be vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. However, upon the effective date of rules adopted pursuant to s. 373.427, a water management district created under s. 373.069 shall perform the staff duties and functions related to the review of any application for authorization to use board of trustees-owned submerged lands necessary for an activity regulated under part IV of chapter 373 for which the water management district has permitting responsibility as set forth in an operating agreement adopted pursuant to s. 373.046(4); and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall perform the staff duties and functions related to the review of applications and compliance with conditions for use of board of trustees-owned submerged lands under authorizations or leases issued pursuant to ss. 253.67-253.75 and 597.010. Unless expressly prohibited by law, the board of trustees may delegate to the department any statutory duty or obligation relating to the acquisition, administration, or disposition of lands, title to which is or will be vested in the board of trustees. The board of trustees may also delegate to any water management district created under s. 373.069 the authority

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to take final agency action, without any action on behalf of the board, on applications for authorization to use board of trustees-owned submerged lands for any activity regulated under part IV of chapter 373 for which the water management district has permitting responsibility as set forth in an operating agreement adopted pursuant to s. 373.046(4). This water management district responsibility under this subsection shall be subject to the department's general supervisory authority pursuant to s. 373.026(7). The board of trustees may also delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to take final agency action on behalf of the board on applications to use board of trustees-owned submerged lands for any activity for which that department has responsibility pursuant to ss. 253.67-253.75 and 597.010. However, the board of trustees shall retain the authority to take final agency action on establishing any areas for leasing, new leases, expanding existing lease areas, or changing the type of lease activity in existing leases. Upon issuance of an aquaculture lease or other real property transaction relating to aquaculture, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services must send a copy of the document and the accompanying survey to the Department of Environmental Protection. Unless otherwise expressly superseded, the board of trustees may also delegate to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission the authority to take final agency action, without any action on behalf of the board, on applications for authorization to use board of trustees-owned submerged lands for any activity regulated under ss. 369.20 and 369.22. The amendments to section 253.002, Florida Statutes, in this act prevail over any conflicting amendments to that section contained in SB 1294 and enacted during the 2008 Regular Session.



Section 14. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), all of the powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, and property; unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds; administrative authority; administrative rules; pending issues; and existing contracts of the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management in the Department of Environmental Protection are transferred by a type two transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(2) The statutory powers, duties, and functions of the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management in the Department of Environmental Protection under ss. 369.25 and 369.251, Florida Statutes, are transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Section 15. Section 327.803, Florida Statutes, is repealed. Section 16. <u>Section 372.107</u>, Florida Statutes, is repealed. Section 17. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

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======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========== And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to fish and wildlife; amending s. 253.03, F.S.; requiring the Board of Trustees to provide for the establishment of seagrass mitigation banks for specific purposes; amending s. 253.034, F.S.; creating a monitoring team for the purposes of reviewing management plans of state-owned lands; providing review procedures; amending s. 253.04, F.S; relating to the protection of state lands;

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providing definitions; providing that it is a civil infraction to operate a vessel outside a marked channel in a manner that causes seagrass scarring; providing penalties; amending s. 259.037, F.S.; requiring stateowned land managing agencies report additional information to the Division of State Lands; amending s. 327.73, F.S., relating to noncriminal infractions; establishing civil penalties for the destruction of seagrasses; amending ss. 370.021 and 370.061, F.S., conforming cross-references; amending s. 372.73, F.S., relating to the disposition of illegally taken wildlife; providing for the disposition of such wildlife; providing for the documentation of illegally taken wildlife; creating s. 372.731, F.S., relating to photographs of illegally taken wildlife; providing for the admission of photographs as evidentiary materials; providing conditions under which such photographs shall be taken; amending ss. 372.9901, 372.9904, and 932.7055, F.S., conforming cross-references; repealing ss. 327.803 and 372.107, F.S.; amends s. 253.002, F.S.; providing for a type two transfer of the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; providing an effective date.