

HB 5113A

2009

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the Water Management Lands Trust Fund;  
3 amending s. 373.59, F.S.; prohibiting the issuance of  
4 certain refunding bonds; revising, as of a specified  
5 fiscal year, distributions from the trust fund to certain  
6 water management districts to include distribution  
7 priorities and allocation of specified amounts of such  
8 distributions to the General Revenue Fund each fiscal  
9 year; providing an effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
13 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (8) of section 373.59,  
14 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15 373.59 Water Management Lands Trust Fund.--

16 (1) There is established within the Department of  
17 Environmental Protection the Water Management Lands Trust Fund  
18 to be used as a nonlapsing fund for the purposes of this  
19 section. The moneys in this fund are hereby continually  
20 appropriated for the purposes of land acquisition, management,  
21 maintenance, capital improvements of land titled to the  
22 districts, payments in lieu of taxes, debt service on bonds  
23 issued prior to July 1, 1999, debt service on bonds issued on or  
24 after July 1, 1999, which are issued to refund bonds issued  
25 before July 1, 1999, preacquisition costs associated with land  
26 purchases, and the department's costs of administration of the  
27 fund. No refunding bonds may be issued which mature after the  
28 final maturity date of the bonds being refunded or which provide

29 for higher debt service in any year than is payable on such  
 30 bonds as of February 1, 2009. The department's costs of  
 31 administration shall be charged proportionally against each  
 32 district's allocation using the formula provided in subsection  
 33 (8). Capital improvements shall include, but need not be limited  
 34 to, perimeter fencing, signs, firelanes, control of invasive  
 35 exotic species, controlled burning, habitat inventory and  
 36 restoration, law enforcement, access roads and trails, and  
 37 minimal public accommodations, such as primitive campsites,  
 38 garbage receptacles, and toilets. The moneys in the fund may  
 39 also be appropriated to supplement operational expenditures at  
 40 the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Suwannee  
 41 River Water Management District, with such appropriations  
 42 allocated prior to the allocations set out in subsection (8) to  
 43 the five water management districts.

44 (8) Moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund  
 45 shall be allocated as follows ~~to the five water management~~  
 46 ~~districts in the following percentages:~~

47 (a) Through the 2008-2009 fiscal year, thirty percent to  
 48 the South Florida Water Management District. Beginning with the  
 49 2009-2010 fiscal year, thirty percent shall be used first to pay  
 50 debt service on bonds issued before February 1, 2009, by the  
 51 South Florida Water Management District which are secured by  
 52 revenues provided by this section or to fund debt service  
 53 reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with  
 54 respect to such bonds, then to transfer \$3,000,000 to the credit  
 55 of the General Revenue Fund in each fiscal year, and lastly to

56 distribute the remainder to the South Florida Water Management  
 57 District.

58 (b) Through the 2008-2009 fiscal year, twenty-five percent  
 59 to the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Beginning  
 60 with the 2009-2010 fiscal year, twenty-five percent shall be  
 61 used first to transfer \$2,500,000 to the credit of the General  
 62 Revenue Fund in each fiscal year and then to distribute the  
 63 remainder to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

64 (c) Through the 2008-2009 fiscal year, twenty-five percent  
 65 to the St. Johns River Water Management District. Beginning with  
 66 the 2009-2010 fiscal year, twenty-five percent shall be used  
 67 first to pay debt service on bonds issued before February 1,  
 68 2009, by the St. Johns River Water Management District which are  
 69 secured by revenues provided by this section or to fund debt  
 70 service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts  
 71 payable with respect to such bonds, then to transfer \$2,500,000  
 72 to the credit of the General Revenue Fund in each fiscal year,  
 73 and to distribute the remainder to the St. Johns River Water  
 74 Management District.

75 (d) Ten percent to the Suwannee River Water Management  
 76 District.

77 (e) Ten percent to the Northwest Florida Water Management  
 78 District.

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