

HB 1117

2012

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the conservation of wildlife;  
 3           providing for certain zoos and aquariums to apply to  
 4           the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement  
 5           Trust Fund for authorization to use state lands for  
 6           the purpose of conducting enhanced research; providing  
 7           application requirements; providing criteria that the  
 8           board must consider in reviewing the application;  
 9           requiring the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
 10          Commission to assist the board and to adopt rules;  
 11          providing an effective date.

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

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 15           Section 1. (1) A zoo or aquarium having current  
 16 accreditation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and  
 17 operating a facility in the state may apply to the Board of  
 18 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for  
 19 authorization to use state lands for the purpose of conducting  
 20 enhanced research in husbandry, reproductive biology,  
 21 endocrinology, nutrition, genetics, behavior, health, and  
 22 ecology that will ensure healthy wildlife populations for native  
 23 and nonnative species of animals and birds.

24           (2) The application shall:  
 25           (a) Provide information relating to the principals and  
 26 sponsors of the project.  
 27           (b) Provide a description of the funding and sources of  
 28 funding that will be used to support the project.

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29 (c) Identify the size, proximate location, and type of  
30 land sought.

31 (d) Provide a detailed description of the proposed  
32 project, including a description of the research to be conducted  
33 and the animals that will be used in the research. A project  
34 involving mammalian species that are carnivores or primates is  
35 prohibited.

36 (e) Provide a description of the infrastructure that will  
37 be necessary in order to conduct the research project, including  
38 buildings, utilities, and roadways.

39 (3) The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement  
40 Trust Fund may approve the application if it determines that the  
41 proposed project is in the best interest of the state. In making  
42 its determination, the board of trustees shall consider:

43 (a) Whether the project is consistent with the state's  
44 goals for the lands that will be used for the project and will  
45 not cause harm to the land or the surrounding land.

46 (b) Whether the project, through alliances and  
47 relationships with organizations, universities, federal and  
48 state agencies, or other members of the Association of Zoos and  
49 Aquariums, or otherwise, will have a positive economic impact on  
50 the state or the communities surrounding the project location.

51 (4) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
52 provide technical assistance to the Board of Trustees of the  
53 Internal Improvement Trust Fund in reviewing each application.

54 (5) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
55 adopt rules to administer this section.

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.