

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to conservation of wildlife;
 3 authorizing certain zoos and aquariums to apply to the
 4 Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust
 5 Fund or the governing board of a water management
 6 district to use state lands or water management
 7 district lands for specified purposes; providing
 8 application requirements; providing criteria for the
 9 approval of such uses; requiring the Fish and Wildlife
 10 Conservation Commission to provide technical
 11 assistance in reviewing such applications; providing
 12 an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. (1) A zoo or aquarium having current
 17 accreditation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and
 18 operating a facility in the state may apply to the Board of
 19 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for
 20 authorization to use state lands, or to the governing board of a
 21 water management district for authorization to use district
 22 lands, for the purpose of conducting enhanced research in
 23 husbandry, reproductive biology, endocrinology, nutrition,
 24 genetics, behavior, health, and ecology of selected populations
 25 of ungulate and avian species.

26 (2) The application must:

27 (a) Provide information relating to the principals and
 28 sponsors of the project.

CS/HB 1117

2012

29 (b) Provide a description of the funding and sources of
30 funding that will be used to support the project.

31 (c) Identify the size, proximate location, and type of
32 land sought.

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

38 (e) Provide a description of the infrastructure necessary
39 to conduct the research project, including buildings, utilities,
40 roadways, and containment facilities.

41 (f) Provide a description of a plan to ensure timely
42 recovery of animals that have escaped due to natural disasters
43 or other unforeseen events.

44 (3) The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement
45 Trust Fund or the governing board of the water management
46 district may approve the application if it determines that the
47 proposed project is in the best interest of the state. In making
48 its determination, the board of trustees or governing board
49 shall consider:

50 (a) Whether the project is consistent with the state's
51 goals for the lands that will be used for the project, as
52 described in the approved land management plan for those lands,
53 and will not cause harm to the land or the surrounding land.

54 (b) Whether the project, through alliances and
55 relationships with organizations, universities, federal and
56 state agencies, or other members of the Association of Zoos and

CS/HB 1117

2012

57 Aquariums, or otherwise, will have a positive economic impact on
58 the state and the communities surrounding the project location.

59 (4) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
60 provide technical assistance to the Board of Trustees of the
61 Internal Improvement Trust Fund or to the governing board of the
62 water management district in reviewing each application.

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