

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

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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 information that must be provided in the application;
8 providing criteria that the board must consider in
9 reviewing the application; requiring the Fish and
10 Wildlife Conservation Commission to assist the board
11 and to adopt rules; 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 which will ensure healthy wildlife populations for
23 native and foreign 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 the funding
28 sources that will be used to support the project.

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

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30 sought.

31 (d) Provide a detailed description of the proposed project,
32 including a description of the research to be conducted and the
33 animals that will be used in the research. However, a project
34 involving animal 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 may approve the application if it
40 determines that the proposed project is in the best interest of
41 the state. In making its determination, the board of trustees
42 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, creates a positive economic impact for
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 commission shall adopt rules to administer this
55 section.

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