

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to relating to state lands; amending
 3 s. 253.42, F.S.; authorizing individuals and
 4 corporations to submit requests to the Board of
 5 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to
 6 exchange state-owned land for conservation easements
 7 over privately held land; providing criteria for
 8 consideration of such requests; encouraging certain
 9 operations on such lands; providing an effective date.

10
 11 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that significant economic
 12 forces compel the state to be innovative in seeking new ways to
 13 expand the protection and conservation of undeveloped lands
 14 while reducing the overall fiscal impact to the state, and

15 WHEREAS, many of these undeveloped lands are held in
 16 private ownership by individuals or by private or public
 17 corporations and are contiguous to existing state-owned land,
 18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that these individuals
 20 or corporations may have additional management resources that
 21 would assist in the conservation and protection of natural
 22 resources on such lands and allow the state to increase the
 23 amount of land under protective covenants, and

24 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage
 25 the use of conservation easements over privately held land
 26 through the exchange of state-owned land, to secure the future
 27 of natural resource-based recreation areas, and to ensure the
 28 survival of plant and animal species and the conservation of

HB 33

2013

29 finite and renewable natural resources, NOW, THEREFORE,

30

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

32

33 Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 253.42,
34 Florida Statutes, to read:

35 253.42 Board of trustees may exchange lands.—The
36 provisions of this section apply to all lands owned by, vested
37 in, or titled in the name of the board whether the lands were
38 acquired by the state as a purchase, or through gift, donation,
39 or any other conveyance for which no consideration was paid.

40 (4) (a) An individual or a private or public corporation
41 with privately held land contiguous to state-owned land may
42 submit a request directly to the board to exchange state-owned
43 land for conservation easements over the privately held land.

44 (b) If the privately held land is surrounded by state-
45 owned land on at least 30 percent of its perimeter, and the
46 exchange does not create an inholding, the board shall consider
47 such request within 60 days after receipt of the request.

48 (c) Special consideration shall be given to a request
49 submitted pursuant to this subsection that allows the state to
50 retain a conservation easement in perpetuity. Furthermore, low-
51 impact operations such as grazing, forest management, prescribed
52 burning, and wildlife management practices are strongly
53 encouraged on such lands.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.