

By Senator Soto

14-01517A-14

20141604\_\_

1                           A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to state-owned lands; amending s.  
3       253.034, F.S.; requiring that recommendations  
4       concerning requests for surplusizing certain lands made  
5       by the Acquisition and Restoration Council to the  
6       Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust  
7       Fund be based on a scientific analysis conducted by  
8       the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and reported to  
9       the Division of State Lands; providing criteria for  
10      such analysis; requiring the board 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. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) of section  
16       253.034, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17       253.034 State-owned lands; uses.-

18       (6) The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust  
19       Fund shall determine which lands, the title to which is vested  
20       in the board, may be surplusized. For conservation lands, the  
21       board shall determine whether the lands are no longer needed for  
22       conservation purposes and may dispose of them by an affirmative  
23       vote of at least three members. In the case of a land exchange  
24       involving the disposition of conservation lands, the board must  
25       determine by an affirmative vote of at least three members that  
26       the exchange will result in a net positive conservation benefit.  
27       For all other lands, the board shall determine whether the lands  
28       are no longer needed and may dispose of them by an affirmative  
29       vote of at least three members.

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30 (e) Before any decision by the board to surplus lands, the  
31 Acquisition and Restoration Council shall review and make  
32 recommendations to the board concerning the request for  
33 surplus. Such recommendations must be based on a scientific  
34 analysis conducted by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and  
35 reported to the Division of State Lands. This analysis must be  
36 based on the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Model  
37 Framework criteria created by the technical review committee for  
38 the division in 2013 which uses a scientific and environmentally  
39 based process that determines which conservation land owned by  
40 the board has the lowest conservation resources. This analysis  
41 must include the seven categories and criteria used in the GIS  
42 Model Framework, including connectivity, water quality  
43 protection, ecological significance, recreation resource  
44 elements, historic and cultural resources, and market value.  
45 This analysis must provide a detailed description of each  
46 criterion, data source used, and methodology for interpretation  
47 of the data sets. Before being listed for sale, such lands must  
48 meet additional criteria, including title issues and community  
49 concerns. The council shall determine whether the request for  
50 surplus is compatible with the resource values of and  
51 management objectives for such lands. The board shall adopt  
52 rules relating to any additional criteria required for  
53 recommendations made by the council concerning a request for  
54 surplus pursuant to this paragraph.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.