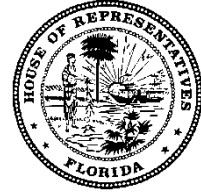


THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Andy Gardiner
President of the Senate



Steve Crisafulli
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

June 16, 2015

The Honorable Andy Gardiner
President of the Senate

The Honorable Steve Crisafulli
Speaker, House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 2516-A, same being:

An act relating to the implementation of the water and land conservation constitutional amendment.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 272503.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

Conferees on the part of the Senate

<hr/> <i>Senator Tom Lee, Chair</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, Vice Chair</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Joseph Abruzzo</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Thad Altman</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Aaron Bean</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Rob Bradley</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Jeff Brandes</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Oscar Braynon II</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Dwight Bullard</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Jeff Clemens</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Charles S. Dean</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Nancy C. Detert</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Greg Evers</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Anitere Flores, At Large</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Don Gaetz</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Bill Galvano, At Large</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Rene Garcia</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Audrey Gibson</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Denise Grimsley, At Large</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Alan Hays</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Dorothy L. Hukill</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Travis Hutson</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Arthenia L. Joyner, At Large</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Jack Latvala</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator John Legg</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Gwen Margolis, At Large</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Bill Montford</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Joe Negron</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Garrett Richter, At Large</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Jeremy Ring</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Maria Lorts Sachs</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator David Simmons, At Large</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Wilton Simpson</i>
<hr/> <i>Senator Christopher L. Smith, At Large</i>	<hr/> <i>Senator Eleanor Sobel</i>

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Senator Darren Soto

Senator Kelli Stargel

Senator Geraldine F. Thompson

Managers on the part of the House of Representatives

Representative Richard Corcoran, Chair

Representative Ben Albritton, Chair

Representative Doug Broxson

Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, At Large

Representative Janet Cruz, At Large

Representative Eric Eisnaugle, At Large

Representative Matt Gaetz, At Large

Representative Tom Goodson, At Large

Representative Clay Ingram, At Large

Representative Mia L. Jones, At Large

Representative Debbie Mayfield

Representative Larry Metz, At Large

Representative Jose R. Oliva, At Large

Representative Mark S. Pafford, At Large

Representative Elizabeth W. Porter, At Large

Representative Holly Raschein, At Large

Representative Darryl Ervin Rouson, At Large

Representative Cynthia A. Stafford, At Large

Representative Jim Boyd, Vice Chair

Representative Randolph Bracy

Representative Matt Caldwell, At Large

Representative Neil Combee

Representative Jose Felix Diaz, At Large

Representative Erik Fresen, At Large

Representative Julio Gonzalez

Representative Matt Hudson, At Large

Representative Kristin Diane Jacobs

Representative Mike La Rosa

Representative Charles McBurney, At Large

Representative Jeanette M. Nuñez, At Large

Representative H. Marlene O'Toole, At Large

Representative Ray Pilon

Representative Bobby Powell

Representative David Richardson, At Large

Representative Jimmie T. Smith

Representative Jay Trumbull

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Representative Clovis Watson, Jr.

Representative Alan B. Williams, At Large

Representative John Wood, At Large

Representative Dana D. Young, At Large

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The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 2516-A Implementation of the Water and Land Conservation Constitutional Amendment, provides for the following:

SB 2516-A implements Article X, section 28 of the Florida Constitution. The constitutional amendment requires that 33 percent of documentary stamp tax revenue be distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and prohibits funds from the LATF from being used for other than specified purposes provided in the amendment. In addition, the amendment prohibits the comingling of the LATF with the General Revenue Fund.

SB 2516-A restructures trust funds to implement the constitutional requirement that documentary stamp taxes directed for environmental purposes must not be comingled with the General Revenue Fund. The bill also ensures that the documentary stamp taxes are not comingled with other revenue sources and can be tracked from distribution into the LATF to appropriations within the General Appropriations Act. The bill terminates certain trust funds currently receiving documentary stamp tax revenue intended for expenditure on environmental programs and redirects those moneys and moneys from other sources deposited into those terminated trust funds to other appropriate trust funds. The terminated trust funds include within the:

- Department of Environmental Protection the:
 - Florida Communities Trust Fund;
 - Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund;
 - Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund;
 - Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund; and
 - Water Management Lands Trust Fund.
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection the:
 - Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund.
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission the:
 - Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund.

SB 2516-A revises the statutory distributions of revenues derived from the documentary stamp tax to satisfy the water and land conservation constitutional amendment. The bill:

- Requires the LATF to receive 33 percent of net revenues from the documentary stamp tax.
- Requires payment of debt service for Florida Forever and Everglades bonds from the LATF.
- Repeals the existing distributions of documentary stamp taxes to terminated trust funds that serve environmental purposes other than the distribution to the LATF.
- Removes the existing documentary stamp tax distribution for payments in lieu of taxes to local governments.
- Maintains the existing effective percentage distributions to the State Transportation Trust Fund and the Department of Economic Opportunity's Grants and Donations Trust Fund, while reducing the actual distribution to these trust funds.
- Increases the percentage distributions to the State Housing Trust Fund so that the same dollar amounts are distributed to that trust fund as would have been distributed under current law.
- Maintains the percentage distribution from the State Housing Trust Fund to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund.

Finally, the bill addresses the following provisions:

- Specifies that funds in any LATF must be invested separately with the interest deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
- Revises the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the DEP and the FWC to comply with the constitutional amendment.
- Revises all environmental bonding provisions to comply with the constitutional amendment and repeals all obsolete bonding provisions.
- Redirects the phosphate rock severance tax distribution from the CARL Trust Fund to the State Park Trust Fund within the DEP.
- Specifies that all Land Acquisition Trust Fund balances as of June 30, 2015, in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are transferred to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund effective when the bill becomes law.
- Removes language that funds shall be made available from the CARL Trust Fund within the DEP for payment in lieu of taxes to qualifying counties and local governments; however, the bill adds language that the Legislature may appropriate funds annually for the payment in lieu of taxes.
- Removes obsolete language and cross references.
- Corrects cross references and conforms provisions to changes made by the act.

This bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2015, except as otherwise expressly provided.