

By Senators Negrón and Benacquisto

32-01093B-16

20161168\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to implementation of the water and  
3           land conservation constitutional amendment; amending  
4           s. 375.041, F.S.; requiring a minimum specified  
5           percentage of funds within the Land Acquisition Trust  
6           Fund to be appropriated for Everglades restoration  
7           projects; providing a preference in the use of funds  
8           to certain projects that reduce harmful discharges to  
9           the St. Lucie Estuary and the Caloosahatchee Estuary;  
10          providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 375.041, Florida  
15           Statutes, is amended to read:

16           375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

17           (3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund  
18           pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

19           (a) First, to pay debt service or to fund debt service  
20           reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with  
21           respect to Florida Forever bonds issued under s. 215.618; and  
22           pay debt service, provide reserves, and pay rebate obligations  
23           and other amounts due with respect to Everglades restoration  
24           bonds issued under s. 215.619; and

25           (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required  
26           under paragraph (a) but before funds may be appropriated or  
27           dedicated for other uses, a minimum of the lesser of 25 percent  
28           or \$200 million shall be appropriated annually for Everglades  
29           projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration  
30           Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central  
31           Everglades Planning Project subject to congressional  
32           authorization; the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2);

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33 and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as  
34 set forth in s. 373.4595. From these funds, \$32 million shall be  
35 distributed each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year  
36 to the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term  
37 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32  
38 million distributed under this paragraph, from the funds  
39 remaining, a minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100  
40 million shall be appropriated each fiscal year through the 2025-  
41 2026 fiscal year for the planning, design, engineering, and  
42 construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as  
43 set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades  
44 Planning Project subject to congressional authorization. The  
45 Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida  
46 Water Management District shall give preference to those  
47 Everglades restoration projects that reduce harmful discharges  
48 of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee  
49 estuaries in a timely manner ~~Then, to pay the debt service on~~  
50 ~~bonds issued before February 1, 2009, by the South Florida Water~~  
51 ~~Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management~~  
52 ~~District, which are secured by revenues provided pursuant to~~  
53 ~~former s. 373.59, Florida Statutes 2014, or which are necessary~~  
54 ~~to fund debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other~~  
55 ~~amounts payable with respect to such bonds. This paragraph~~  
56 ~~expires July 1, 2016; and~~

57 ~~(c) Then, to distribute \$32 million each fiscal year to the~~  
58 ~~South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan~~  
59 ~~as defined in s. 373.4592(2). This paragraph expires July 1,~~  
60 ~~2024.~~

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.