

By Senator Bracy

11-00419B-18

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Little Wekiva River; amending  
3           s. 375.041, F.S.; requiring a specified annual  
4           appropriation to the St. Johns River Water Management  
5           District from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for  
6           certain purposes related to the Little Wekiva River;  
7           reducing such appropriation by a specified amount for  
8           debt service; deleting an obsolete provision;  
9           requiring an appropriation to acquire certain lands  
10          associated with the Little Wekiva River; providing an  
11          effective date.

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

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

17           375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

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

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

26           (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required  
27           under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,  
28           pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

29           1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million

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30 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that  
31 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set  
32 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning  
33 Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term  
34 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades  
35 and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.  
36 From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal  
37 year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida  
38 Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in  
39 s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed  
40 under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of  
41 the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated  
42 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the  
43 planning, design, engineering, and construction of the  
44 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.  
45 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the  
46 Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake  
47 Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage  
48 Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the  
49 Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand  
50 Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection  
51 and the South Florida Water Management District shall give  
52 preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce  
53 harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St.  
54 Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the  
55 purpose of performing the calculation provided in this  
56 subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to  
57 paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the  
58 purposes set forth under paragraph (b) shall be added to the

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59 amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph  
60 (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be  
61 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
62 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the  
63 purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

64 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million  
65 shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,  
66 protection, and management projects. For the purpose of  
67 performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the  
68 amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds  
69 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under  
70 paragraph (b) shall be added to the amount remaining after the  
71 payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the  
72 distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal  
73 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds  
74 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this  
75 subparagraph.

76 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually  
77 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St.  
78 Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to  
79 the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be  
80 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
81 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the  
82 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

83 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be  
84 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019  
85 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA  
86 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining  
87 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of

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88 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in  
89 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws  
90 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such  
91 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount  
92 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be  
93 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
94 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the  
95 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

96 5. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually to  
97 the St. Johns River Water Management District for the  
98 restoration, enhancement, and management of the headwaters and  
99 associated wetlands of the Little Wekiva River. This  
100 distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt  
101 service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after  
102 July 1, 2018, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph  
103 ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., for the 2017-2018 fiscal year,~~  
104 ~~funds shall be appropriated as provided in the General~~  
105 ~~Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2018.~~

106 Section 2. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the sum of \$15  
107 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the Land  
108 Acquisition Trust Fund to the St. Johns River Water Management  
109 District to acquire the lands identified in the Wekiva Study  
110 Area as specified in s. 369.316, Florida Statutes, and the lands  
111 associated with that area or otherwise associated with the  
112 headwaters of the Little Wekiva River.

113 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.