

By Senator Mayfield

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund;  
3       amending s. 375.041, F.S.; providing an appropriation  
4       for certain projects related to the Indian River  
5       Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan;  
6       authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection  
7       to make grants for such projects; directing the  
8       department to submit an annual report to the Governor  
9       and the Legislature; removing an obsolete provision;  
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,  
27 pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

28       1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million  
29 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that

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

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

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

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

82 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be  
83 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019  
84 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA  
85 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining  
86 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of  
87 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in

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

95 5. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million is  
96 appropriated annually each fiscal year for projects dedicated to  
97 the conservation and management of the Indian River Lagoon. This  
98 distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt  
99 service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after  
100 July 1, 2018, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.  
101 The Department of Environmental Protection shall use the funds  
102 to make grants for projects that implement the updated Indian  
103 River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan,  
104 including multiyear grants for the planning and construction of  
105 such projects. The department shall coordinate all such grants  
106 with the South Florida Water Management District and the St.  
107 Johns River Water Management District. The department, the South  
108 Florida Water Management District, and the St. Johns River Water  
109 Management District shall coordinate such grants with other  
110 water management districts as necessary. Preference shall be  
111 given to projects for ecosystem monitoring and habitat  
112 restoration, projects to connect onsite sewage treatment and  
113 disposal systems to central sewer systems, and projects for the  
114 management of stormwater, freshwater, and agricultural  
115 discharges. Grants for sewer system connection projects and  
116 discharge management projects shall require a minimum 50 percent

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117 local match. Beginning January 1, 2019, and each January 1  
118 thereafter, the department shall submit a report regarding the  
119 projects funded pursuant to this subparagraph to the Governor,  
120 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
121 Representatives ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., for the 2017-~~  
122 ~~2018 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as provided in the~~  
123 ~~General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1,~~  
124 ~~2018.~~

125 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.