

By Senator Bradley

5-01697C-20

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to environmental protection; creating  
3       s. 373.477, F.S.; requiring a minimum annual  
4       appropriation for Everglades restoration and the  
5       protection of water resources in this state beginning  
6       in a specified fiscal year; providing requirements for  
7       the allocation of such funding; providing for future  
8       repeal of the appropriation unless reviewed and saved  
9       from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature;  
10      providing an effective date.

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

13  
14       Section 1. Section 373.477, Florida Statutes, is created to  
15       read:

16       373.477 Everglades restoration and protection of water  
17 resources.—For fiscal year 2020-2021, and annually thereafter, a  
18 minimum of \$625 million shall be appropriated as provided in  
19 this section for the purposes of Everglades restoration and the  
20 protection of water resources in this state. The funding must be  
21 used for a science-based process to identify projects that are  
22 needed to achieve such restoration and protection.

23       (1) The annual appropriations to the Department of  
24 Environmental Protection must provide for the following  
25 distributions:

26       (a) The greater of \$300 million or as provided pursuant to  
27 s. 375.041(3)(b)1., for Everglades restoration, and s.  
28 375.041(3)(b)4., for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir  
29 project.

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30       (b) The sum of \$50 million to the South Florida Water  
31 Management District for the design, engineering, and  
32 construction of aquifer storage and recovery wells.

33       (c) Funding for spring restoration pursuant to s.  
34 375.041(3)(b)2.

35       (d) The sum of \$40 million for alternative water supplies  
36 or water conservation.

37       (e) The sum of \$15 million for projects within the  
38 watersheds of the St. Johns River, the Suwannee River, and the  
39 Apalachicola River.

40       (f) The sum of \$15 million for projects within the  
41 watersheds of the Indian River Lagoon.

42       (g) The sum of \$10 million for coral reef protection and  
43 restoration.

44       (2) The sum of \$4 million to the Fish and Wildlife  
45 Conservation Commission for red tide research.

46       (3) Any remaining balance shall be allocated to fund any of  
47 the following:

48       (a) Targeted water quality improvements.

49       (b) Alternative water supplies or water conservation.

50       (c) Water quality enhancements and accountability,  
51 innovative technologies, and harmful algal bloom prevention and  
52 mitigation.

53       (d) Land acquisition or easement acquisition, including,  
54 but not limited to, lands or easements purchased pursuant to the  
55 Florida Forever program or the Rural and Family Lands Protection  
56 Program.

57       (4) This section is repealed on June 30, 2023, unless  
58 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the

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59 Legislature.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.