

By Senator Baxley

12-00668-20

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Harris Chain of Lakes;
3 repealing s. 373.467, F.S., relating to the Harris
4 Chain of Lakes Restoration Council; amending s.
5 373.468, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
6 by the act; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Section 373.467, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

11 Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 373.468,
12 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13 373.468 The Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program.—

14 (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the
15 St. Johns River Water Management District, in conjunction with
16 the Department of Environmental Protection and ~~and~~ pertinent local
17 governments, ~~and the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council,~~
18 shall review existing restoration proposals to determine which
19 ones are the most environmentally sound and economically
20 feasible methods of improving the fish and wildlife habitat and
21 natural systems of the Harris Chain of Lakes.

22 (2) To initiate the Harris Chain of Lakes restoration
23 program ~~recommended by the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration~~
24 ~~Council,~~ the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, with
25 assistance from the St. Johns River Water Management District
26 and in consultation and by agreement with the Department of
27 Environmental Protection and pertinent local governments, shall
28 develop tasks to be undertaken by those entities for the
29 enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. These agencies shall

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30 ~~(a)~~ evaluate different methodologies for removing the
31 extensive tussocks and buildup of organic matter along the
32 shoreline and of the aquatic vegetation in the lake.

33 ~~(b) Conduct any additional studies as recommended by the~~
34 ~~Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council.~~

35 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.