



595990

576-04130-20

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and  
General Government)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Apalachicola Environmental  
Stewardship Act; providing a short title; amending s.  
259.105, F.S.; requiring specified funds from the  
Florida Forever Fund to be spent on projects within  
the Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern  
for specified purposes; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be referred to as "The Apalachicola  
Environmental Stewardship Act."

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
259.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

259.105 The Florida Forever Act.—

(3) Less the costs of issuing and the costs of funding  
reserve accounts and other costs associated with bonds, the  
proceeds of cash payments or bonds issued pursuant to this  
section shall be deposited into the Florida Forever Trust Fund  
created by s. 259.1051. The proceeds shall be distributed by the  
Department of Environmental Protection in the following manner:

(b) Thirty-five percent to the Department of Environmental  
Protection for the acquisition of lands and capital project  
expenditures described in this section. Of the proceeds  
distributed pursuant to this paragraph, it is the intent of the  
Legislature that an increased priority be given to those



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27 acquisitions which achieve a combination of conservation goals,  
28 including protecting Florida's water resources and natural  
29 groundwater recharge. At a minimum, 3 percent, and no more than  
30 10 percent, of the funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph  
31 shall be spent on capital project expenditures identified during  
32 the time of acquisition which meet land management planning  
33 activities necessary for public access. Beginning in the 2017-  
34 2018 fiscal year and continuing through the 2026-2027 fiscal  
35 year, at least \$5 million of the funds allocated pursuant to  
36 this paragraph shall be spent on land acquisition within the  
37 Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern as authorized  
38 pursuant to s. 259.045. Beginning in the 2020-2021 fiscal year  
39 and continuing through the 2024-2025 fiscal year, at least \$5  
40 million of the funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph shall  
41 be spent on projects that improve surface water and groundwater  
42 quality within the Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State  
43 Concern as designated under s. 380.0555, including the  
44 construction and replacement of stormwater management facilities  
45 and central sewage collection facilities, installation of onsite  
46 sewage treatment and disposal systems, direct and indirect  
47 potable reuse, and other water quality and water supply  
48 projects.

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