

HB 943

2021

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Apalachicola Bay Area of
3 Critical State Concern; amending s. 259.105, F.S.;
4 requiring that certain funds distributed into the
5 Florida Forever Trust Fund be spent on projects that
6 improve surface water and groundwater quality in the
7 Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern;
8 providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
13 259.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 259.105 The Florida Forever Act.—

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

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

26 acquisitions which achieve a combination of conservation goals,
27 including protecting Florida's water resources and natural
28 groundwater recharge.

29 1. At a minimum, 3 percent, and no more than 10 percent,
30 of the funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph shall be spent
31 on capital project expenditures identified during the time of
32 acquisition which meet land management planning activities
33 necessary for public access.

34 2. Beginning in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and continuing
35 through the 2026-2027 fiscal year, at least \$5 million of the
36 funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph shall be spent on
37 land acquisition within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State
38 Concern as authorized pursuant to s. 259.045.

39 3. Beginning in the 2021-2022 fiscal year and continuing
40 through the 2025-2026 fiscal year, at least \$100,000 of the
41 funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph shall be spent on
42 projects that improve surface water and groundwater quality in
43 within the Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern as
44 designated under s. 380.0555, including the construction and
45 replacement of stormwater management facilities and central
46 sewage collection facilities, installation of onsite sewage
47 treatment and disposal systems, direct and indirect potable
48 reuse, and other water quality and water supply projects.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.