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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Conference Committee on SB 2508, 1st Eng. recommended the following:

1           **Senate Conference Committee Amendment (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

3  
4           Delete everything after the enacting clause  
5 and insert:

6           Section 1. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
7 paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 373.026, Florida  
8 Statutes, is amended to read:

9           373.026 General powers and duties of the department.—The  
10 department, or its successor agency, shall be responsible for



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11 the administration of this chapter at the state level. However,  
12 it is the policy of the state that, to the greatest extent  
13 possible, the department may enter into interagency or  
14 interlocal agreements with any other state agency, any water  
15 management district, or any local government conducting programs  
16 related to or materially affecting the water resources of the  
17 state. All such agreements shall be subject to the provisions of  
18 s. 373.046. In addition to its other powers and duties, the  
19 department shall, to the greatest extent possible:

20 (8)

21 (b) To ensure to the greatest extent possible that project  
22 components will go forward as planned, the department shall  
23 collaborate with the South Florida Water Management District in  
24 implementing the comprehensive plan as defined in s.  
25 373.470(2)(b), the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan as  
26 defined in s. 373.4595(2), and the River Watershed Protection  
27 Plans as defined in s. 373.4595(2). Before any project component  
28 is submitted to Congress for authorization or receives an  
29 appropriation of state funds, the department must approve, or  
30 approve with amendments, each project component within 60 days  
31 following formal submittal of the project component to the  
32 department. Prior to the release of state funds for the  
33 implementation of the comprehensive plan, department approval  
34 shall be based upon a determination of the South Florida Water  
35 Management District's compliance with s. 373.1501(5) and (7).  
36 Additionally, each budget amendment requesting the release of  
37 state funds for the implementation of a project component or a  
38 water control plan or regulation schedule required for the  
39 operation of the project shall be contingent on the submission



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40 of the certification required in s. 373.1501(7). Nothing in this  
41 paragraph shall constitute a final agency action challengeable  
42 under chapter 120. Once a project component is approved, the  
43 South Florida Water Management District shall provide to the  
44 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
45 Representatives a schedule for implementing the project  
46 component, the estimated total cost of the project component,  
47 any existing federal or nonfederal credits, the estimated  
48 remaining federal and nonfederal share of costs, and an estimate  
49 of the amount of state funds that will be needed to implement  
50 the project component. All requests for an appropriation of  
51 state funds needed to implement the project component shall be  
52 submitted to the department, and such requests shall be included  
53 in the department's annual request to the Governor. Prior to the  
54 release of state funds for the implementation of the Lake  
55 Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan or the River Watershed  
56 Protection Plans, on an annual basis, the South Florida Water  
57 Management District shall prepare an annual work plan as part of  
58 the consolidated annual report required in s. 373.036(7). Upon a  
59 determination by the secretary of the annual work plan's  
60 consistency with the goals and objectives of ss. 373.1501(7) and  
61 373.4595 ~~s. 373.4595~~, the secretary may approve the release of  
62 state funds. Any modifications to the annual work plan shall be  
63 submitted to the secretary for review and approval.  
64 Notwithstanding the requirements of this paragraph, the release  
65 of state funds for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir  
66 project, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed project, the C-43 West  
67 Basin Reservoir Storage project, and the Indian River Lagoon-  
68 South project is authorized.



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69           Section 2. Effective upon becoming a law, paragraph (a) of  
70 subsection (7) of section 373.036, Florida Statutes, is amended  
71 to read:

72           373.036 Florida water plan; district water management  
73 plans.—

74           (7) CONSOLIDATED WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT.—

75           (a) By March 1, annually, each water management district  
76 shall prepare and submit to the Office of Economic and  
77 Demographic Research, the department, the Governor, the  
78 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
79 Representatives a consolidated water management district annual  
80 report on the management of water resources. In addition, copies  
81 must be provided by the water management districts to the chairs  
82 of all legislative committees having substantive or fiscal  
83 jurisdiction over the districts and the governing board of each  
84 county in the district having jurisdiction or deriving any funds  
85 for operations of the district. Copies of the consolidated  
86 annual report must be made available to the public, either in  
87 printed or electronic format. Any modifications to the annual  
88 work plan shall be submitted to the secretary for review and  
89 approval. Such approval does not constitute a final agency  
90 action challengeable under chapter 120.

91           Section 3. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
92 subsection (7) of section 373.1501, Florida Statutes, is  
93 amended, subsections (10) and (11) are added to that section,  
94 and subsection (4) of that section is reenacted, to read:

95           373.1501 South Florida Water Management District as local  
96 sponsor.—

97           (4) The district is authorized to act as local sponsor of



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98 the project for those project features within the district as  
99 provided in this subsection and subject to the oversight of the  
100 department as further provided in s. 373.026. The district shall  
101 exercise the authority of the state to allocate quantities of  
102 water within its jurisdiction, including the water supply in  
103 relation to the project, and be responsible for allocating water  
104 and assigning priorities among the other water uses served by  
105 the project pursuant to state law. The district may:

106 (a) Act as local sponsor for all project features  
107 previously authorized by Congress.

108 (b) Continue data gathering, analysis, research, and design  
109 of project components, participate in preconstruction  
110 engineering and design documents for project components, and  
111 further refine the Comprehensive Plan of the restudy as a guide  
112 and framework for identifying other project components.

113 (c) Construct pilot projects that will assist in  
114 determining the feasibility of technology included in the  
115 Comprehensive Plan of the restudy.

116 (d) Act as local sponsor for project components.

117 (7) When developing or implementing water control plans or  
118 regulation schedules required for the operation of the project,  
119 the district shall provide recommendations to the United States  
120 Army Corps of Engineers which are consistent with all district  
121 programs and plans. The district shall certify to the President  
122 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
123 with a copy to the department, in the annual report pursuant to  
124 s. 373.036(7), that its recommendations made pursuant to this  
125 subsection during the previous 12 months are consistent with all  
126 district programs and plans. Nothing in this subsection shall



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127 constitute a final agency action challengeable under chapter  
128 120.

129 (10) The Legislature finds that the Lake Okeechobee  
130 Regulation Schedule and any operating manual must balance the  
131 different interests across the system, including, but not  
132 limited to, safeguarding the water supply to society and the  
133 environment, reducing high-volume discharges to coastal  
134 estuaries, and providing for flood control.

135 (11) Water shortages within the Lake Okeechobee Region must  
136 be managed in accordance with Chapters 40E-21 and 40E-22,  
137 Florida Administrative Code, as such region is set forth  
138 therein. Any change to such rules may not take effect until  
139 ratified by the Legislature and presented to the Governor, or if  
140 the Legislature fails to act and present to the Governor during  
141 the next regular legislative session, such rules shall take  
142 effect after the next regular legislative session and shall  
143 otherwise comply with s. 120.541.

144 Section 4. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section  
145 373.4141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

146 373.4141 Permits; processing.—

147 (1) GENERAL PROCESSING; TIME LIMITATIONS.—

148 (a) Within 30 days after receipt of an application for a  
149 permit under this part, the department or the water management  
150 district shall review the application and shall request  
151 submittal of all additional information the department or the  
152 water management district is permitted by law to require. If the  
153 applicant believes any request for additional information is not  
154 authorized by law or rule, the applicant may request a hearing  
155 pursuant to s. 120.57. Within 30 days after receipt of such



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156 additional information, the department or water management  
157 district shall review it and may request only that information  
158 needed to clarify such additional information or to answer new  
159 questions raised by or directly related to such additional  
160 information. If the applicant believes the request of the  
161 department or water management district for such additional  
162 information is not authorized by law or rule, the department or  
163 water management district, at the applicant's request, must  
164 ~~shall~~ proceed to process the permit application.

165 (b)(2) A permit must ~~shall~~ be approved, denied, or subject  
166 to a notice of proposed agency action within 60 days after  
167 receipt of the original application, the last item of timely  
168 requested additional material, or the applicant's written  
169 request to begin processing the permit application.

170 (c)(3) Processing of applications for permits for  
171 affordable housing projects must ~~shall~~ be expedited to a greater  
172 degree than other projects.

173 (d)(4) A state agency or an agency of the state may not  
174 require as a condition of approval for a permit or as an item to  
175 complete a pending permit application that an applicant obtain a  
176 permit or approval from any other local, state, or federal  
177 agency without explicit statutory authority to require such  
178 permit or approval.

179 (2) AGREEMENTS TO PROCESS PERMITS.—

180 (a) The department may enter into an agreement or a  
181 contract with a public entity, which includes a utility  
182 regulated under chapter 366, to expedite the evaluation of  
183 environmental resource permits or section 404 permits related to  
184 a project or an activity that serves a public purpose. Any



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185 agreement or contract entered into pursuant to this subsection  
186 must be effective for at least 3 years.

187 (b) The department must ensure that any agreement or  
188 contract entered into by the department does not affect  
189 impartial decisionmaking, either substantively or procedurally.  
190 The department must use the same procedures for decisions that  
191 would otherwise be required for the evaluation of permits for  
192 similar projects or activities not carried out under an  
193 agreement or contract authorized under this subsection.

194 (c) The department must make all active agreements or  
195 contracts entered into under this subsection available on its  
196 website.

197 (d) The department may receive funds pursuant to an  
198 agreement or contract entered into under this subsection. Any  
199 funds received pursuant to this subsection must be deposited  
200 into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and used in accordance  
201 with the agreement or contract.

202 Section 5. Effective January 1, 2023, section 570.71,  
203 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

204 570.71 Land acquisition; conservation easements and  
205 agreements.—

206 (1) The department, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of  
207 the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, may allocate moneys to  
208 acquire land or related interests in land, such as perpetual,  
209 less-than-fee acquisitions ~~interest in land,~~ to enter into  
210 agricultural protection agreements, and to enter into resource  
211 conservation agreements for any of the following public  
212 purposes:

213 (a) Promotion and improvement of wildlife habitat.†





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214 (b) Protection and enhancement of water bodies, aquifer  
215 recharge areas, wetlands, and watersheds.†

216 (c) Perpetuation of open space on lands with significant  
217 natural areas.†~~or~~

218 (d) Protection of agricultural lands threatened by  
219 conversion to other uses.

220 (e) Preservation and protection of natural and working  
221 landscapes.

222 (f) Preservation, protection, and enhancement of wildlife  
223 corridors and linkages.

224 (2) To achieve the purposes of this section, the department  
225 may accept applications for project proposals that:

226 (a) Purchase land or interests in land, such as  
227 conservation easements, as defined in s. 704.06.

228 (b) Purchase rural-lands-protection easements pursuant to  
229 this section.

230 (c) Fund resource conservation agreements pursuant to this  
231 section.

232 (d) Fund agricultural protection agreements pursuant to  
233 this section.

234 (3) Rural-lands-protection easements are ~~shall be~~ a  
235 perpetual right or interest in agricultural land which is  
236 appropriate to retain such land in predominantly its current  
237 state and to prevent the subdivision and conversion of such land  
238 into other uses. This right or interest in property shall  
239 prohibit only the following:

240 (a) Construction or placing of buildings, roads, billboards  
241 or other advertising, utilities, or structures, except those  
242 structures and unpaved roads necessary for the agricultural



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243 operations on the land or structures necessary for other  
244 activities allowed under the easement, and except for linear  
245 facilities described in s. 704.06(11).~~†~~

246 (b) Subdivision of the property.~~†~~

247 (c) Dumping or placing of trash, waste, or offensive  
248 materials.~~†~~ ~~and~~

249 (d) Activities that detrimentally affect the natural  
250 hydrology of the land or that detrimentally affect water  
251 conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish or  
252 wildlife habitat, except those required for environmental  
253 restoration; federal, state, or local government regulatory  
254 programs; or best management practices.

255 (4) Resource conservation agreements will be contracts for  
256 services which provide annual payments to landowners for  
257 services that actively improve habitat and water restoration or  
258 conservation on their lands over and above that which is already  
259 required by law or which provide recreational opportunities.  
260 They will be for a term of not less than 5 years and not more  
261 than 10 years. Property owners will become eligible to enter  
262 into a resource conservation agreement only upon entering into a  
263 conservation easement or rural lands protection easement.

264 (5) Agricultural protection agreements shall be for terms  
265 of 30 years and will provide payments to landowners having  
266 significant natural areas on their land. Public access and  
267 public recreational opportunities may be negotiated at the  
268 request of the landowner.

269 (a) For the length of the agreement, the landowner shall  
270 agree to prohibit:

271 1. Construction or placing of buildings, roads, billboards



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272 or other advertising, utilities, or structures, except those  
273 structures and unpaved roads necessary for the agricultural  
274 operations on the land or structures necessary for other  
275 activities allowed under the easement, and except for linear  
276 facilities described in s. 704.06(11);

277 2. Subdivision of the property;

278 3. Dumping or placing of trash, waste, or offensive  
279 materials; and

280 4. Activities that affect the natural hydrology of the  
281 land, or that detrimentally affect water conservation, erosion  
282 control, soil conservation, or fish or wildlife habitat.

283 (b) As part of the agricultural protection agreement, the  
284 parties shall agree that the state shall have a right to buy a  
285 conservation easement or rural land protection easement at the  
286 end of the 30-year term. If the landowner tenders the easement  
287 for the purchase and the state does not timely exercise its  
288 right to buy the easement, the landowner shall be released from  
289 the agricultural agreement. The purchase price of the easement  
290 shall be established in the agreement and shall be based on the  
291 value of the easement at the time the agreement is entered into,  
292 plus a reasonable escalator multiplied by the number of full  
293 calendar years following the date of the commencement of the  
294 agreement. The landowner may transfer or sell the property  
295 before the expiration of the 30-year term, but only if the  
296 property is sold subject to the agreement and the buyer becomes  
297 the successor in interest to the agricultural protection  
298 agreement. Upon mutual consent of the parties, a landowner may  
299 enter into a perpetual easement at any time during the term of  
300 an agricultural protection agreement.



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301 (6) Payment for conservation easements and rural land  
302 protection easements shall be a lump-sum payment at the time the  
303 easement is entered into.

304 (7) Landowners entering into an agricultural protection  
305 agreement may receive up to 50 percent of the purchase price at  
306 the time the agreement is entered into, and remaining payments  
307 on the balance shall be equal annual payments over the term of  
308 the agreement.

309 (8) Payments for the resource conservation agreements shall  
310 be equal annual payments over the term of the agreement.

311 (9) Easements purchased pursuant to this act may not:

312 (a) Prevent landowners from transferring the remaining fee  
313 value with the easement; or

314 (b) At the request of the landowner, restrict a landowner's  
315 ability to use, or authorize the use of by third parties,  
316 specific parcels of land within a conservation easement for  
317 conservation banking or recipient sites for imperiled species as  
318 defined in s. 259.105(2)(a)11. or wetlands mitigation banking  
319 pursuant to chapter 373, provided the specific parcels of land  
320 include wetland or upland areas that may be enhanced, restored,  
321 or created under the conditions of a wetlands mitigation bank  
322 permit.

323 (10) The department, in consultation with the Department of  
324 Environmental Protection, the water management districts, the  
325 Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Florida Fish and  
326 Wildlife Conservation Commission, shall adopt rules that  
327 establish an application process, a process and criteria for  
328 setting priorities for use of funds consistent with the purposes  
329 specified in subsection (1) and giving preference to ~~ranch and~~



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330 ~~timber~~ lands managed using sustainable practices, an appraisal  
331 process, and a process for title review and compliance and  
332 approval of the rules by the Board of Trustees of the Internal  
333 Improvement Trust Fund.

334 (11) If a landowner objects to having his or her property  
335 included in any lists or maps developed to implement this act,  
336 the department must ~~shall~~ remove the property from any such  
337 lists or maps upon receipt of the landowner's written request to  
338 do so.

339 (12) The department may use appropriated funds from the  
340 following sources to implement this section:

- 341 (a) State funds;
- 342 (b) Federal funds;
- 343 (c) Other governmental entities;
- 344 (d) Nongovernmental organizations; or
- 345 (e) Private individuals.

346

347 Any such funds provided, other than from the Land Acquisition  
348 Trust Fund, shall be deposited into the Incidental Trust Fund  
349 within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and  
350 used for the purposes of this section, including administrative  
351 and operating expenses related to appraisals, mapping, title  
352 process, personnel, and other real estate expenses.

353 (13) No more than 10 percent of any funds made available to  
354 implement this act may ~~shall~~ be expended for resource  
355 conservation agreements and agricultural protection agreements.

356 Section 6. Effective January 1, 2023, section 570.715,  
357 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

358 570.715 Land Conservation ~~conservation easement~~ acquisition procedures.-



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359           (1) For land acquisitions, including less than fee simple  
360 acquisitions, pursuant to s. 570.71, the Department of  
361 Agriculture and Consumer Services shall comply with the  
362 following acquisition procedures:

363           (a) Before conveyance of title by the department, evidence  
364 of marketable title in the form of a commitment for title  
365 insurance or an abstract of title with a title opinion must  
366 ~~shall~~ be obtained.

367           (b) Before approval by the board of trustees of an  
368 agreement to purchase ~~less than fee simple title to~~ land  
369 pursuant to s. 570.71, an appraisal of the parcel is ~~shall be~~  
370 required as follows:

371           1. Each parcel to be acquired must ~~shall~~ have at least one  
372 appraisal. Two appraisals are required when the estimated value  
373 of the parcel exceeds \$1 million. However, when both appraisals  
374 exceed \$1 million and differ significantly, a third appraisal  
375 may be obtained.

376           2. Appraisal fees and associated costs must ~~shall~~ be paid  
377 by the department. All appraisals used for the acquisition of  
378 ~~less than fee simple interest in~~ lands pursuant to this section  
379 must ~~shall~~ be prepared by a state-certified appraiser who meets  
380 the standards and criteria established by rule of the board of  
381 trustees. Each appraiser selected to appraise a particular  
382 parcel shall, before contracting with the department or a  
383 participant in a multiparty agreement, submit to the department  
384 or participant an affidavit substantiating that he or she has no  
385 vested or fiduciary interest in such parcel.

386           (c) A certified survey must be made that meets the minimum  
387 requirements for upland parcels established in the Standards of



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388 Practice for Land Surveying in Florida published by the  
389 department and that accurately portrays, to the greatest extent  
390 practicable, the condition of the parcel as it currently exists.  
391 The requirement for a certified survey may, in whole or in part,  
392 be waived by the board of trustees any time before the land  
393 acquisition ~~of the less than fee simple interest~~. If an existing  
394 boundary map and description of a parcel are determined by the  
395 department to be sufficient for appraisal purposes, the  
396 department may temporarily waive the requirement for a survey  
397 until any time before conveyance of title to the parcel.

398 (d) On behalf of the board of trustees and before the  
399 appraisal of parcels approved for purchase under ss.  
400 259.105(3)(i) and 570.71, the department may enter into option  
401 contracts to buy ~~less than fee simple interest in~~ such parcels.  
402 Any such option contract must ~~shall~~ state that the final  
403 purchase price is subject to approval by the board of trustees  
404 and that the final purchase price may not exceed the maximum  
405 offer authorized by law. Any such option contract presented to  
406 the board of trustees for final purchase price approval must  
407 ~~shall~~ explicitly state that payment of the final purchase price  
408 is subject to an appropriation by the Legislature. The  
409 consideration for any such option contract may not exceed \$1,000  
410 or 0.01 percent of the estimate by the department of the value  
411 of the parcel, whichever amount is greater.

412 (e) A final offer must ~~shall~~ be in the form of an option  
413 contract or agreement for purchase of the land ~~less than fee~~  
414 ~~simple interest~~ and must ~~shall~~ be signed and attested to by the  
415 owner and the department. Before the department signs the  
416 agreement for purchase of the land ~~less than fee simple interest~~



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417 or exercises the option contract, the requirements of s. 286.23  
418 must ~~shall~~ be complied with.

419 (f) The procedures provided in s. 253.025(9) (a)-(d) and  
420 (10) must ~~shall~~ be followed.

421 (2) If the public's interest is reasonably protected, the  
422 board of trustees may:

423 (a) Waive any requirement of this section.

424 (b) Waive any rules adopted pursuant to s. 570.71,  
425 notwithstanding chapter 120.

426 (c) Substitute any other reasonably prudent procedures,  
427 including federally mandated acquisition procedures, for the  
428 procedures in this section, if federal funds are available and  
429 will be used for the purchase of land ~~a less than fee simple~~  
430 ~~interest in lands~~, title to which will vest in the board of  
431 trustees, and qualification for such federal funds requires  
432 compliance with federally mandated acquisition procedures.

433 (3) The ~~less than fee simple~~ land acquisition procedures  
434 provided in this section are for voluntary, negotiated  
435 acquisitions.

436 (4) For purposes of this section, the term "negotiations"  
437 does not include preliminary contacts with the property owner to  
438 determine availability or eligibility of the property, existing  
439 appraisal data, existing abstracts, and surveys.

440 (5) Appraisal reports are confidential and exempt from s.  
441 119.07(1), for use by the department and the board of trustees,  
442 until an option contract is executed or, if an option contract  
443 is not executed, until 2 weeks before a contract or agreement  
444 for purchase is considered for approval by the board of  
445 trustees. However, the department has the authority, at its





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446 discretion, to disclose appraisal reports to private landowners  
447 during negotiations for acquisitions using alternatives to fee  
448 simple techniques, if the department determines that disclosure  
449 of such reports will bring the proposed acquisition to closure.  
450 The department may also disclose appraisal information to public  
451 agencies or nonprofit organizations that agree to maintain the  
452 confidentiality of the reports or information when joint  
453 acquisition of property is contemplated, or when a public agency  
454 or nonprofit organization enters into a written multiparty  
455 agreement with the department. For purposes of this subsection,  
456 the term "nonprofit organization" means an organization whose  
457 purposes include the preservation of natural resources, and  
458 which is exempt from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of  
459 the Internal Revenue Code. The department may release an  
460 appraisal report when the passage of time has rendered the  
461 conclusions of value in the report invalid or when the  
462 department has terminated negotiations.

463       Section 7. Type two transfer from the Agency for Persons  
464 with Disabilities.-

465       (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,  
466 personnel, associated administrative support positions,  
467 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative  
468 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of  
469 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the  
470 William J. "Billy Joe" Rish Recreational Park within the Agency  
471 for Persons with Disabilities are transferred by a type two  
472 transfer, as defined in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the  
473 Department of Environmental Protection.

474       (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing



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475 before July 1, 2022, between the Agency for Persons with  
476 Disabilities, or an entity or agency of the department, and any  
477 other agency, entity, or person relating to the William J.  
478 "Billy Joe" Rish Recreational Park shall continue as a binding  
479 contract or agreement for the remainder of the term of the  
480 contract or agreement on the successor entity responsible for  
481 the program, activity, or functions relative to the contract or  
482 agreement.

483       Section 8. Notwithstanding the reversion and expiration of  
484 paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 570.93, Florida  
485 Statutes, by section 44 of chapter 2021-37, Laws of Florida,  
486 that paragraph is not amended as provided by that act, but is  
487 reenacted to read:

488       570.93 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;  
489 agricultural water conservation and agricultural water supply  
490 planning.—

491       (1) The department shall establish an agricultural water  
492 conservation program that includes the following:

493       (a) A cost-share program, coordinated with the United  
494 States Department of Agriculture and other federal, state,  
495 regional, and local agencies when appropriate, for irrigation  
496 system retrofit and application of mobile irrigation laboratory  
497 evaluations, and for water conservation and water quality  
498 improvement pursuant to s. 403.067(7)(c).

499       Section 9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
500 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
501 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
502 2022.

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504 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

505 And the title is amended as follows:

506 Delete everything before the enacting clause

507 and insert:

508 A bill to be entitled

509 An act relating to environmental resources; amending  
510 s. 373.026, F.S.; providing requirements for budget  
511 amendments requesting the release of state funds for  
512 specified water project components; conforming  
513 provisions to changes made by the act; authorizing the  
514 release of state funds for specified water projects;  
515 amending s. 373.036, F.S.; requiring modifications to  
516 water management district annual work plans to be  
517 submitted to the Secretary of Environmental Protection  
518 for review and approval; amending s. 373.1501, F.S.;  
519 requiring the South Florida Water Management District  
520 to make a specified certification to the Legislature  
521 regarding its recommendations to the United States  
522 Army Corps of Engineers; providing legislative  
523 findings; requiring water shortages within the Lake  
524 Okeechobee Region to be managed in accordance with  
525 certain rules; requiring that changes to certain rules  
526 be ratified by the Legislature and presented to the  
527 Governor; providing that such changes shall take  
528 effect after a specified timeframe if certain  
529 requirements are not met; amending s. 373.4141, F.S.;  
530 authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection  
531 to enter into agreements or contracts with certain  
532 entities to expedite the evaluation of certain



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533 environmental permits; providing requirements for such  
534 agreements or contracts; authorizing the department to  
535 receive funds received pursuant to such an agreement  
536 or contract; requiring such funds to be deposited into  
537 the Grants and Donations Trust Fund; amending s.  
538 570.71, F.S.; specifying that the Department of  
539 Agriculture and Consumer Services may acquire land or  
540 certain related interests in land for specified public  
541 purposes; revising the types of project proposals for  
542 which the department may accept applications; revising  
543 the activities prohibited under certain easements;  
544 removing a requirement that certain department rules  
545 give preference to certain types of lands; amending s.  
546 570.715, F.S.; revising the procedures the department  
547 must comply with for certain land acquisitions;  
548 providing for a type two transfer of the William J.  
549 "Billy Joe" Rish Recreational Park within the Agency  
550 for Persons with Disabilities to the Department of  
551 Environmental Protection; providing for the  
552 continuation of certain contracts and interagency  
553 agreements; reenacting s. 570.93(1)(a), F.S., relating  
554 to an agricultural water conservation program;  
555 providing effective dates.