

26 is an economic engine for the state, but also supports and
27 advances the legislative requirements and intent of the Florida
28 Keys Area Protection Act under s. 380.0552, which designates the
29 Florida Keys as an area of critical state concern.

30 (3) Since the passage of the Florida Keys Stewardship Act,
31 the local governments of the Florida Keys and the state continue
32 to make significant investments to address the most significant
33 environmental needs of the Florida Keys, including nearshore
34 water quality, restoration, and protection; water supply
35 protection; and land investment for critical habitat protection,
36 public safety, property rights, and military base protection.

37 (4) Despite these efforts, consistent funding support is
38 required in order to properly plan and implement projects and
39 long-term programs to address the challenges resulting from sea-
40 level rise and to protect nearshore and offshore communities in
41 the Florida Keys and Florida Bay.

42 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
43 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

44 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

45 (3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund
46 pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

47 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required
48 under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,
49 pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

50 1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million

51 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that
52 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set
53 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning
54 Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term
55 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades
56 and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.
57 From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal
58 year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida
59 Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in
60 s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed
61 under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of
62 the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated
63 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the
64 planning, design, engineering, and construction of the
65 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.
66 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the
67 Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake
68 Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage
69 Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the
70 Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand
71 Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection
72 and the South Florida Water Management District shall give
73 preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce
74 harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St.
75 Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the

76 | purpose of performing the calculation provided in this
 77 | subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to
 78 | paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
 79 | purposes set forth under paragraph (b) shall be added to the
 80 | amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph
 81 | (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be
 82 | reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
 83 | paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
 84 | purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

85 | 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million
 86 | shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,
 87 | protection, and management projects. For the purpose of
 88 | performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the
 89 | amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds
 90 | issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under
 91 | paragraph (b) shall be added to the amount remaining after the
 92 | payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the
 93 | distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal
 94 | to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
 95 | issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
 96 | subparagraph.

97 | 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually
 98 | each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St.
 99 | Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to
 100 | the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be

101 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
 102 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
 103 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

104 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be
 105 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019
 106 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA
 107 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining
 108 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of
 109 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in
 110 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws
 111 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such
 112 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount
 113 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be
 114 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
 115 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the
 116 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

117 5. The sum of \$50 million shall be appropriated annually
 118 to the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake
 119 Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with s.
 120 373.4599. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal
 121 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
 122 issued after July 1, 2021, for the purposes set forth in this
 123 subparagraph.

124 6. The sum of \$20 million shall be appropriated annually
 125 to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the

126 Florida Keys Stewardship Act pursuant to chapter 2016-225, Laws
127 of Florida, by entering into financial assistance agreements
128 with local governments in the Florida Keys Area of critical
129 state concern and the City of Key West area of critical state
130 concern to promote the protection and restoration of the Florida
131 Keys, Florida Bay, and nearshore marine ecosystems, including
132 coral reefs, and to acquire land within the Florida Keys Area of
133 critical state concern under s. 259.045, with increased priority
134 given to acquisitions that achieve conservation goals, including
135 the protection of water resources and natural groundwater
136 recharge. Notwithstanding any other law, these funds may not be
137 used to implement wastewater management projects or programs.
138 This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the
139 debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued
140 after July 1, 2022, for the purposes set forth in this
141 subparagraph ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., for the 2021-2022~~
142 ~~fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as provided in the~~
143 ~~General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1,~~
144 ~~2022.~~

145 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.