

By Senator Harrell

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund;
3 amending s. 375.041, F.S.; providing an annual
4 appropriation for certain projects related to the
5 Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and
6 Management Plan; authorizing the Department of
7 Environmental Protection to make grants for such
8 projects; requiring the department to coordinate such
9 grants with certain water management districts;
10 requiring the department to submit an annual report to
11 the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
12 removing an obsolete provision; providing an effective
13 date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
17 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 375.041, Florida
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

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

22 (a) First, to pay debt service or to fund debt service
23 reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with
24 respect to Florida Forever bonds issued under s. 215.618; and
25 pay debt service, provide reserves, and pay rebate obligations
26 and other amounts due with respect to Everglades restoration
27 bonds issued under s. 215.619; and

28 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required
29 under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,

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30 pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

31 1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million
32 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that
33 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set
34 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning
35 Project subject to congressional authorization; the Long-Term
36 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades
37 and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.
38 From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal
39 year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida
40 Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in
41 s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed
42 under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of
43 the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated
44 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the
45 planning, design, engineering, and construction of the
46 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.
47 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the
48 Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake
49 Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage
50 Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the
51 Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand
52 Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection
53 and the South Florida Water Management District shall give
54 preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce
55 harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St.
56 Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the
57 purpose of performing the calculation provided in this
58 subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to

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59 paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
60 purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the
61 amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph
62 (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be
63 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
64 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
65 purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

66 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million
67 shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,
68 protection, and management projects. For the purpose of
69 performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the
70 amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds
71 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
72 paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the
73 payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the
74 distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal
75 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
76 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
77 subparagraph.

78 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually
79 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St.
80 Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to
81 the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall 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 in this subparagraph.

85 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be
86 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019
87 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA

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88 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining
89 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of
90 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in
91 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws
92 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such
93 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount
94 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be
95 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
96 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the
97 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

98 5. The sum of \$50 million shall be appropriated annually to
99 the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake
100 Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with s.
101 373.4599. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal
102 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
103 issued after July 1, 2021, for the purposes set forth in this
104 subparagraph.

105 6. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million
106 shall be appropriated annually each fiscal year for projects
107 dedicated to the conservation and management of the Indian River
108 Lagoon. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal to
109 the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued
110 after July 1, 2023, for the purposes set forth in this
111 subparagraph. The Department of Environmental Protection shall
112 use the funds to make grants for projects that implement the
113 2008 updated Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and
114 Management Plan, including multiyear grants for the planning and
115 construction of such projects. The department shall coordinate
116 all such grants with the South Florida Water Management District

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117 and the St. Johns River Water Management District. The
118 department, the South Florida Water Management District, and the
119 St. Johns River Water Management District shall coordinate such
120 grants with other water management districts as necessary.
121 Preference must be given to projects for ecosystem monitoring
122 and habitat restoration, projects to connect onsite sewage
123 treatment and disposal systems to central sewer systems, and
124 projects for the management of stormwater, freshwater, and
125 agricultural discharges. Grants for sewer system connection
126 projects and discharge management projects must require a
127 minimum 50 percent local match. Beginning January 1, 2024, and
128 each January 1 thereafter, the department shall submit a report
129 regarding the projects funded pursuant to this subparagraph to
130 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
131 the House of Representatives ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph 3.,~~
132 ~~for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as~~
133 ~~provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph~~
134 ~~expires July 1, 2023.~~

135 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.