

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Infrastructure Strategies
 2 Committee

3 Representative Buchanan offered the following:

4
 5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:
 7 Section 1. Section 380.095, Florida Statutes, is created
 8 to read:

9 380.095 Dedicated funding for conservation lands,
 10 resiliency, and clean water infrastructure.-

11 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-The Legislature recognizes that
 12 the conservation and preservation of the land and water
 13 resources of this state are essential to maintaining the quality
 14 of life enjoyed by Floridians and to sustaining and growing a
 15 thriving state economy, including legacy industries such as
 16 tourism, agriculture, and fishing.

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17 (a) The Legislature recognizes that historic investments
18 in land conservation have fostered and will continue to foster
19 the preservation of Florida's heritage, allow for the strategic
20 expansion and interconnectivity of the Florida wildlife
21 corridor, and promote the protection of crucial habitat
22 necessary for the survival, protection, and recovery of
23 threatened and endangered native species, including the Florida
24 panther.

25 (b) The Legislature further recognizes that as the state
26 acquires land, the state needs to be a good steward of the land,
27 which necessitates the need for a commitment to provide funding
28 at levels sufficient to ensure the proper management of such
29 lands. These investments provide opportunities for expanded
30 public access to state lands, including state parks, the Florida
31 Greenways and Trails System, and game lands, among others, for
32 recreation; and promote opportunities to protect such lands from
33 wildfire damage and the infiltration of dangerous nonnative
34 plant and animal species, among other benefits.

35 (c) The Legislature finds that the state is particularly
36 vulnerable to adverse impacts from increases in the frequency
37 and duration of rainfall events and sea level rise. The
38 consequences of such events not only endanger human lives and
39 properties, but also threaten Florida's natural habitats and
40 biodiversity. The Legislature further recognizes that enhancing

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41 the state's resiliency to storm events and sea level rise is
42 essential to Florida's economic stability and growth.

43 (d) Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes the need for
44 additional revenue sources to address the gap in funding needs
45 necessary to address water quality impacts, and that the
46 projections for significant population growth further exacerbate
47 such need.

48 (e) Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is in the
49 best interest of the residents of the State of Florida to
50 dedicate revenues from the gaming compact between the Seminole
51 Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida to acquire and manage
52 conservation lands, and to make significant investments in
53 resiliency efforts and clean water infrastructure.

54 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—Notwithstanding s. 285.710, the
55 Department of Revenue shall, upon receipt, deposit 96 percent of
56 any revenue share payment received under the compact as defined
57 in s. 285.710 into the Indian Gaming Revenue Trust Fund within
58 the Department of Financial Services. The funds deposited into
59 the trust fund shall be distributed as follows:

60 (a) The sum of \$100 million to support the Florida
61 wildlife corridor as defined in s. 259.1055, including the
62 acquisition of lands or conservation easements within the
63 Florida wildlife corridor. To be eligible for funding, the
64 acquisition project must be included on a land acquisition
65 priority list developed pursuant to s. 259.035 or s. 570.71. The

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66 funds must be appropriated in Administered Funds each fiscal
67 year. Eligible state agencies may, on a first-come, first-served
68 basis, submit a budget amendment to request release of funds
69 pursuant to chapter 216. Release is contingent upon approval, if
70 required.

71 (b) The sum of \$100 million for the management of uplands
72 and the removal of invasive species, which must be divided as
73 follows:

74 1. Thirty-six million to the Department of Environmental
75 Protection, of which:

76 a. Thirty-two million to the State Park Trust Fund within
77 the department for land management activities within the state
78 park system; and

79 b. Four million to the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
80 within the department for the purpose of implementing the Local
81 Trail Management Grant Program created pursuant to s. 260.0145.

82 2. Thirty-two million to the Incidental Trust Fund within
83 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for land
84 management activities.

85 3. Thirty-two million to the State Game Trust Fund within
86 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for land
87 management activities, including management activities for
88 gopher tortoises and Florida panthers.

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90 For sub-subparagraph 1.a. and subparagraphs 2. and 3., a land
91 manager may not use more than 25 percent of the distribution for
92 operation capital outlay or capital assets.

93 (c) The sum of \$100 million to the Resilient Florida Trust
94 Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection for the
95 Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan to be used
96 in accordance with s. 380.093.

97 (d) The remainder to the Water Protection and
98 Sustainability Program Trust Fund within the Department of
99 Environmental Protection for the Water Quality Improvement Grant
100 Program, to be used in accordance with s. 403.0673.

101 Section 2. Section 260.0145, Florida Statutes, is created
102 to read:

103 260.0145 Local Trail Management Grant Program.—

104 (1) The Local Trail Management Grant Program is created
105 within the department to assist local governments with costs
106 associated with the operation and maintenance of trails within
107 the Florida Greenways and Trails System. Funding for the program
108 is subject to appropriation.

109 (2) A local government may receive multiple grant awards
110 per application cycle.

111 (3) The department shall give priority to each of the
112 following:

113 (a) A local government that provides cost share for the
114 costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the

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115 trails, except for trails within fiscally constrained counties
116 or rural areas of opportunity.

117 (b) Trails within the Florida wildlife corridor as defined
118 in s. 259.1055.

119 (4) A local government may only use grant funds for the
120 operation and maintenance of trails, including, but not limited
121 to, the purchase of equipment and capital assets; the funding of
122 necessary repairs to ensure the safety of trail users; and other
123 necessary maintenance, such as pressure washing, bush pruning,
124 and clearing debris. A local government may not use grant funds
125 for the planning, design, or construction of trails.

126 (5) Beginning January 15, 2025, and each January 15
127 thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the
128 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
129 House of Representatives in accordance with s. 286.001 listing
130 the grants awarded pursuant to this section. The report must
131 include the following information for each grant award: the
132 grant recipient's name, a description of the individual
133 components of the trail, a description of the maintenance
134 activities funded, the total management cost for the trail
135 components, and the cost share, if any, provided by the
136 recipient.

137 Section 3. Present subsection (6) of section 259.1055,
138 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), and a new
139 subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

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140 259.1055 Florida wildlife corridor.-

141 (6) MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES.-The Fish and Wildlife
142 Conservation Commission is authorized to enter into voluntary
143 agreements with private landowners for environmental services
144 within the Florida wildlife corridor.

145 (a) The agreements must require that the landowner protect
146 and restore water resources; improve management of wildlife
147 habitat, including the long-term conservation of forest and
148 grassland soils and native plants; manage the land in a manner
149 that keeps the desired ecosystem healthy for protected species,
150 such as the gopher tortoise and the Florida panther; or provide
151 other incentives to landowners to continue and improve land uses
152 that are both economically sustainable and beneficial to the
153 environment of this state.

154 (b) The commission shall ensure that any agreement for
155 environmental services entered into requires the landowner to
156 manage the land in a manner that improves or enhances the land
157 beyond what is required under any other agreement or contract
158 the landowner may have with the state.

159 (c) Subject to appropriation, the commission may use land
160 management funds received pursuant to s. 380.095 for this
161 purpose.

162 Section 4. (1) The Land Management Uniform Accounting
163 Council (LMUAC) shall recommend the most efficient and effective
164 use of the funds available to state agencies for land management

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165 activities pursuant to s. 380.095, Florida Statutes. The
166 recommendations must be based on a review of the resources of
167 each land management agency to determine current expenditures,
168 including personnel costs, spent specifically on upland
169 management activities and invasive species removal. The
170 recommendations must include a calculation methodology to
171 distribute the funds to the state agencies specified in s.
172 380.095(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

173 (2) The LMUAC shall adopt its initial recommendation and
174 submit it to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President
175 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
176 by January 3, 2027. Thereafter, the LMUAC shall update its
177 recommendation in the biennial report developed pursuant to s.
178 259.037, Florida Statutes.

179 Section 5. Subsections (3) and (7) of section 403.0673,
180 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

181 403.0673 Water quality improvement grant program.—A grant
182 program is established within the Department of Environmental
183 Protection to address wastewater, stormwater, and agricultural
184 sources of nutrient loading to surface water or groundwater.

185 (3) The department shall consider and prioritize those
186 projects that:

187 (a) Have the maximum estimated reduction in nutrient load
188 per project;

189 (b) Demonstrate project readiness;

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- 190 (c) Are cost-effective;
- 191 (d) Have a cost share identified by the applicant, except
192 for rural areas of opportunity;
- 193 (e) Have multi-year project implementation schedules with
194 previous state commitment and involvement in the project,
195 considering previously funded phases, the total amount of
196 previous state funding, and previous partial appropriations for
197 the proposed project; ~~or~~
- 198 (f) Are in a location where reductions are needed most to
199 attain the water quality standards of a waterbody not attaining
200 nutrient or nutrient-related standards; or
- 201 (g) Were determined eligible in a previous application
202 cycle and were able to demonstrate project readiness but were
203 not awarded a grant.

204

205 Any project that does not result in reducing nutrient loading to
206 a waterbody identified in subsection (1) is not eligible for
207 funding under this section.

208 (7) Beginning January 15, 2024, and each January 15
209 thereafter, the department shall submit a report regarding the
210 projects funded pursuant to this section to the Governor, the
211 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
212 Representatives. The report must include a list of those
213 projects receiving funding and those projects not receiving
214 funding which were determined eligible by the department and

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215 were able to demonstrate project readiness. The report must
216 include ~~and~~ the following information for each project:
217 (a) A description of the project;
218 (b) The cost of the project;
219 (c) The estimated nutrient load reduction of the project;
220 (d) The location of the project;
221 (e) The waterbody or waterbodies where the project will
222 reduce nutrients; ~~and~~
223 (f) The total cost share being provided for the project;
224 and
225 (g) The progress made in the implementation of multi-year
226 projects, including the funds spent, remaining costs, and
227 remaining timeline for full implementation.

228 Section 6. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
229 distributed to the Indian Gaming Revenue Trust Fund pursuant to
230 s. 380.095, Florida Statutes, and for the 2024-2025 fiscal year,
231 the sum of \$2 million in recurring funds from the General
232 Revenue Fund is appropriated to the University of Florida to
233 continually update the Florida Wildlife Corridor plan and the
234 Florida Ecological Greenways Network plan.

235 Section 7. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
236 distributed to the Department of Environmental Protection
237 pursuant to s. 380.095(2)(c), Florida Statutes, and for the
238 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$5 million in nonrecurring
239 funds from the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund

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240 within the Department of Environmental Protection is
241 appropriated to the department to coordinate with the Water
242 School at Florida Gulf Coast University to conduct a study to
243 identify and analyze potential regional projects that meet the
244 eligibility criteria set forth in s. 403.0673, Florida Statutes.
245 At a minimum, the study must include the collection and
246 consolidation of data regarding water quality to identify
247 potential regional projects, including stormwater, hydrologic
248 improvements, and innovative technologies, which reduce nutrient
249 loading to water bodies identified in s. 403.0673(1), Florida
250 Statutes. The department shall submit the report to the
251 Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate,
252 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 3,
253 2025.

254 Section 8. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
255 distributed to the Indian Gaming Revenue Trust Fund within the
256 Department of Financial Services pursuant to s. 380.095, Florida
257 Statutes, and for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$100
258 million in nonrecurring funds from trust funds is appropriated
259 to Administered Funds for land acquisition pursuant to s.
260 380.095(2)(a), Florida Statutes.

261 Section 9. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
262 distributed to the Department of Environmental Protection
263 pursuant to s. 380.095(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes, and for the
264 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$4 million in nonrecurring

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265 funds from the Internal Improvement Trust Fund within the
266 Department of Environmental Protection is appropriated for the
267 purpose of implementing the Local Trail Management Grant Program
268 created pursuant to s. 260.0145, Florida Statutes.

269 Section 10. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
270 distributed to the Department of Environmental Protection
271 pursuant to s. 380.095(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes, and for the
272 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$32 million in nonrecurring
273 funds from the State Park Trust Fund within the Department of
274 Environmental Protection is appropriated for land management
275 activities as specified in s. 380.095(2)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

276 Section 11. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
277 distributed to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
278 Services pursuant to s. 380.095(2)(b)2., Florida Statutes, and
279 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$32 million in
280 nonrecurring funds from the Incidental Trust Fund within the
281 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is appropriated
282 for land management activities as specified in s.
283 380.095(2)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

284 Section 12. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
285 distributed to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
286 pursuant to s. 380.095(2)(b)3., Florida Statutes, and for the
287 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$32 million in nonrecurring
288 funds from the State Game Trust Fund within the Fish and
289 Wildlife Conservation Commission is appropriated for control of

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290 invasive species and upland land management activities pursuant
291 to s. 380.095(2)(b)3., Florida Statutes, or s. 259.1055, Florida
292 Statutes.

293 Section 13. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
294 distributed to the Resilient Florida Trust Fund pursuant to s.
295 380.095(2)(c), Florida Statutes, and for the 2024-2025 fiscal
296 year, the sum of \$100 million in nonrecurring funds from the
297 Resilient Florida Trust Fund within the Department of
298 Environmental Protection is appropriated for the Statewide
299 Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan pursuant to s.
300 380.093, Florida Statutes.

301 Section 14. Contingent upon sufficient funds being
302 distributed to the Water Protection and Sustainability Program
303 Trust Fund pursuant to s. 380.095(2)(d), Florida Statutes, and
304 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$79 million in
305 nonrecurring funds from the Water Protection and Sustainability
306 Program Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental
307 Protection is appropriated for the Water Quality Improvement
308 Grant Program pursuant to s. 403.0673, Florida Statutes.

309 Section 15. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$150
310 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is
311 appropriated in the Aid to Local Governments - Grants and Aids -
312 South Florida Water Management District - Operations
313 appropriation category to the South Florida Water Management
314 District for operations and maintenance responsibilities under

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315 the purview of the district. The funds must be placed in
316 reserve. From the funds, the district shall enter into a
317 contract with the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University
318 to conduct a study of the health and ecosystem of Lake
319 Okeechobee. The study must take into account the health of
320 plant, fish, and wildlife to be used for future planning of
321 invasive plant control, replanting of native vegetation, and
322 fish and game management. The study must be submitted by January
323 1, 2025, to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President
324 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
325 The Department of Environmental Protection is authorized to
326 submit budget amendments to request release of funds pursuant to
327 chapter 216, Florida Statutes. Release is contingent upon the
328 submission of a spend plan and negotiated draft contract between
329 the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Gulf
330 Coast University Water School.

331 Section 16. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
332 law.

333
334 -----

335 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

336 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

337 A bill to be entitled

338 An act relating to funding for environmental resource
339 management; creating s. 380.095, F.S.; providing

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340 legislative findings and intent; requiring the Department
341 of Revenue to deposit into the Indian Gaming Revenue Trust
342 Fund within the Department of Financial Services a
343 specified percentage of the revenue share payments received
344 under the gaming compact between the Seminole Tribe of
345 Florida and the State of Florida; providing requirements
346 for the distribution of such funds; creating s. 260.0145,
347 F.S.; creating the Local Trail Management Grant Program
348 within the Department of Environmental Protection for a
349 specified purpose; providing for the administration and
350 prioritization of awards; specifying the authorized and
351 prohibited uses of grant funds; requiring the department to
352 submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature
353 by a specified date; providing requirements for the report;
354 amending s. 259.1055, F.S.; authorizing the Fish and
355 Wildlife Conservation Commission to enter into voluntary
356 agreements with private landowners for environmental
357 services within the wildlife corridor; providing
358 requirements for such agreements; authorizing the use of
359 land management funds; requiring the Land Management
360 Uniform Accounting Council to recommend the efficient and
361 effective use of certain funds available to state agencies
362 for land management activities; providing requirements for
363 such recommendations; requiring the council to adopt and
364 submit its initial recommendation to the Executive Office

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365 of the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
366 requiring biennial updates; amending s. 403.0673, F.S.;
367 revising the projects the department is required to
368 prioritize within the water quality improvement grant
369 program; revising the components required for the grant
370 program's annual report; providing appropriations;
371 requiring the department to coordinate with the Water
372 School at Florida Gulf Coast University for specified
373 purposes; requiring the Water School to conduct a specified
374 study; providing requirements for the study; requiring the
375 department to submit a report to the Executive Office of
376 the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
377 providing appropriations; requiring the South Florida Water
378 Management District to enter into a contract with the Water
379 School at Florida Gulf Coast University to conduct a study
380 of the health and ecosystem of Lake Okeechobee; providing
381 requirements for the study; requiring a report to the
382 Executive Office of the Governor and the Legislature by a
383 specified date; authorizing the Department of Environmental
384 Protection to submit budget amendment for the release of
385 specified funds; providing an effective date.