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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FC	.	
04/24/2025	.	
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The Committee on Fiscal Policy (Gruters) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 243 - 409
and insert:
recreation area within its boundaries.

1. All lands managed pursuant to this chapter must be:
a. Managed in a manner that will provide the greatest
combination of benefits to the public and to the land's natural
resources; and

b. Managed for conservation-based recreational uses; public



914540

11 access and related amenities, including roads, parking areas,
12 walkways, and visitor centers; the preservation of Florida
13 heritage tourism activities, such as glass bottom boat rides and
14 riverboat tours and wildlife parks; and scientific research,
15 including archaeology. Such uses must be managed in a manner
16 that is compatible with and that ensures the conservation of
17 this state's natural resources by minimizing impacts to
18 undisturbed habitat and using disturbed upland regions to the
19 maximum extent practicable. As used in this sub-subparagraph,
20 the term "conservation-based recreational uses" means public
21 outdoor recreational activities that do not significantly
22 invade, degrade, or displace the natural resources, native
23 habitats, or archeological or historical sites that are
24 preserved within state parks. These activities include, but are
25 not limited to, fishing, camping, bicycling, hiking, nature
26 study, swimming, boating, canoeing and related paddlesports,
27 horseback riding, diving, birding, sailing, and jogging.

28 2. To ensure the protection of state park resources,
29 sporting facilities, including, but not limited to, golf
30 courses, tennis courts, pickleball courts, ball fields, or other
31 similar facilities, which cause substantial harm to the natural
32 resources, native habitats, or archeological or historical sites
33 within state parks may not be constructed in state parks.

34 (c)(3) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall Study and
35 appraise the recreational ~~recreation~~ needs of the state and
36 assemble and disseminate information related ~~relative~~ to
37 recreation.

38 (d)(4) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall Provide
39 consultation assistance to local governing units as to the



914540

40 protection, organization, and administration of local recreation
41 systems and the planning and design of local recreational
42 ~~recreation~~ areas and facilities.

43 ~~(e)(5) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall~~ Assist in
44 recruiting, training, and placing recreation personnel.

45 ~~(f)(6) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall~~ Sponsor
46 and promote recreation institutes, workshops, seminars, and
47 conferences throughout this ~~the~~ state.

48 ~~(g)(7) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall~~ Cooperate
49 with state and federal agencies, private organizations, and
50 commercial and industrial interests in the promotion of a state
51 recreation program.

52 ~~(2)(8) This part shall be enforced by~~ The Division of Law
53 Enforcement of the Department of Environmental Protection and
54 its officers and ~~by~~ the Division of Law Enforcement of the Fish
55 and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its officers shall
56 enforce this part.

57 Section 4. Present subsection (5) of section 258.007,
58 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), a new
59 subsection (5) and subsection (6) are added to that section, and
60 subsection (3) of that section is amended, to read:

61 258.007 Powers of division.—

62 (3) (a) The division may, as consistent with s. 258.004,
63 grant privileges, leases, concessions, and permits for the use
64 of land for the accommodation of visitors in the various parks,
65 monuments, and memorials in accordance with all of the following
66 provisions:

67 1. ~~provided no~~ Natural curiosities or objects of interest
68 may not ~~shall~~ be granted, leased, or rented on ~~such~~ terms that



914540

69 ~~as shall~~ deny or interfere with free access to them by the
70 public.~~;~~

71 2. ~~provided further,~~ Such grants, leases, and permits may
72 be made and given without advertisement or securing competitive
73 bids.~~;~~ and

74 3. ~~provided further, that no~~ Such grants, leases, and
75 permits may not grant, lease, or permit shall be assigned or
76 transferred by any grantee without consent of the division.

77 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), ~~after May 1, 2014,~~ the
78 division may not grant new concession agreements for the
79 accommodation of visitors in a state park that provides beach
80 access and contains less than 7,000 feet of shoreline if the
81 type of concession is available within 1,500 feet of the park's
82 boundaries. This paragraph does not apply to concession
83 agreements for accommodations offered at a park on or before May
84 1, 2014. ~~This paragraph shall take effect upon this act becoming~~
85 ~~a law.~~

86 (5) The division may acquire, install, or permit the
87 installation or operation in state parks of campsites and
88 cabins. The installation and operation of campsites and cabins
89 must be compatible with the state park's land management plan
90 and must be approved pursuant to s. 253.034(5). Campsites and
91 cabins must, to the maximum extent practicable, be sited to
92 avoid impacts to a state park's critical habitat and natural and
93 historical resources.

94 (6) The division may not authorize uses or construction
95 activities, including the building or alteration of any
96 structure, within a state park which may cause significant harm
97 to the resources of the state park. Any use or any construction



914540

98 activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, be conducted
99 in a manner that avoids impacts to a state park's critical
100 habitat and natural and historical resources.

101 Section 5. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (8) of
102 section 259.032, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

103 259.032 Conservation and recreation lands.—

104 (8)

105 (b) Individual management plans required by s. 253.034(5),
106 for parcels over 160 acres and for parcels located within a
107 state park, must ~~shall~~ be developed with input from an advisory
108 group.

109 1. Members of the ~~this~~ advisory group shall include, at a
110 minimum, representatives of the lead land managing agency,
111 comanaging entities, local private property owners, the
112 appropriate soil and water conservation district, a local
113 conservation organization, and a local elected official. If
114 habitat or potentially restorable habitat for imperiled species
115 is located on state lands, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
116 Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
117 Services must ~~shall~~ be included on any advisory group required
118 under chapter 253, and the short-term and long-term management
119 goals required under chapter 253 must advance the goals and
120 objectives of imperiled species management without restricting
121 other uses identified in the management plan.

122 2. The advisory group shall conduct at least one public
123 hearing within the county in which the parcel or project is
124 located. For those parcels or projects ~~that are~~ within more than
125 one county, at least one areawide public hearing is ~~shall be~~
126 acceptable and the lead managing agency shall invite a local



914540

127 elected official from each county. The areawide public hearing
128 must ~~shall~~ be held in the county in which the core parcels are
129 located. At least 30 days before the public hearing, notice of
130 the ~~such~~ public hearing must ~~shall~~ be posted on the parcel or
131 project designated for management, advertised in a paper of
132 general circulation, and announced at a scheduled meeting of the
133 local governing body ~~before the actual public hearing~~.

134 3. The management prospectus required pursuant to paragraph
135 (7) (b) must ~~shall~~ be available to the public for a period of 30
136 days before the public hearing.

137 (c) Once a plan is adopted, the managing agency or entity
138 shall update the plan at least every 10 years in a form and
139 manner adopted by rule of the board. Such updates, for parcels
140 over 160 acres and for parcels located within a state park, must
141 ~~shall~~ be developed with input from an advisory group. Such plans
142 may include transfers of leasehold interests to appropriate
143 conservation organizations or governmental entities designated
144 by the council for uses consistent with the purposes of the
145 organizations and the protection, preservation, conservation,
146 restoration, and proper management of the lands and their
147 resources. Volunteer management assistance is encouraged,
148 including, but not limited to, assistance by youths
149 participating in programs sponsored by state or local agencies,
150 by volunteers sponsored by environmental or civic organizations,
151 and by individuals participating in programs for committed
152 delinquents and adults.

153
154 By July 1 of each year, each governmental agency and each
155 private entity designated to manage lands shall report to the



914540

156 Secretary of Environmental Protection on the progress of
157 funding, staffing, and resource management of every project for
158 which the agency or entity is responsible.

159 Section 6. By December 1, 2025, the Department of
160 Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the Governor,
161 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
162 Representatives which includes all of the following information
163 regarding the state park system:

164 (1) The number of state parks with amenities or areas that
165 have limited use or are temporarily closed due to needed repairs
166 or inadequate infrastructure necessary to support conservation-
167 based public recreation uses.

168 (2) The system's estimated budget allocation expenditures
169 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, broken down by salaries and
170 benefits, equipment costs, and contracting costs for the
171 following categories: operations, maintenance and repair, park
172 improvement, and administrative overhead.

173
174 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

175 And the title is amended as follows:

176 Delete lines 17 - 27

177 and insert:

178 uses"; prohibiting the construction of certain
179 facilities in state parks; making technical changes;
180 amending s. 258.007, F.S.; requiring the division to
181 comply with specified provisions when granting certain
182 privileges, leases, concessions, and permits;
183 authorizing the division to acquire, install, or
184 permit the installation or operation at state parks of



914540

185 campsites and cabins that meet certain requirements;
186 prohibiting the division from authorizing certain uses
187 or construction activities within a state park;
188 amending s.