

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Fish and Wildlife Conservation
 3 Commission Trust Funds; amending s. 379.201, F.S.;
 4 authorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
 5 Commission to invest and reinvest Administrative Trust
 6 Fund moneys; requiring that certain funds be carried
 7 forward; amending s. 379.205, F.S.; authorizing the
 8 commission to spend money from the Florida Panther
 9 Research and Management Trust Fund for certain
 10 research, monitoring, and land acquisition; amending
 11 s. 379.206, F.S.; removing a provision specifying the
 12 type of agreement activities for which moneys from the
 13 Grants and Donations Trust Fund may be used; amending
 14 s. 379.209, F.S.; removing a requirement for the
 15 administration of the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund;
 16 authorizing the use of trust fund proceeds for law
 17 enforcement purposes; authorizing the commission to
 18 enter into certain agreements with private landowners;
 19 providing an effective date.

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 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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23 **Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 379.201, Florida**
 24 **Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) is added to that**
 25 **section to read:**

26 | 379.201 Administrative Trust Fund.—

27 | (2) The fund is established for use as a depository for
 28 | funds to be used for management activities that are
 29 | commissionwide in nature and funded by indirect cost earnings or
 30 | assessments against trust funds. The commission may invest and
 31 | reinvest the funds and the interest thereof. Moneys to be
 32 | credited to the trust fund include indirect cost reimbursements
 33 | from grantors, administrative assessments against trust funds,
 34 | interest earnings, and other appropriate administrative fees.

35 | (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and
 36 | pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end
 37 | of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of
 38 | the year and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of
 39 | the trust fund.

40 | **Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of**
 41 | **section 379.205, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

42 | 379.205 Florida Panther Research and Management Trust
 43 | Fund.—

44 | (2) The commission shall spend money from the fund and all
 45 | interest derived from its investments and reinvestments only for
 46 | the following purposes:

47 | (a) To manage and protect existing Florida panther
 48 | populations by increasing panther food sources where food is a
 49 | limiting factor, determining conflicts between public use and
 50 | panther survival, maintaining sufficient genetic variability in

51 existing populations, researching and monitoring feline
52 diseases, and undertaking management and enforcement activities
53 that protect panther habitat.

54 (c) To reestablish Florida panthers into areas of suitable
55 habitat, where feasible, by assessing the necessity of a captive
56 breeding program for purposes of reintroduction of the panthers
57 into the suitable habitat; selecting potential sites for
58 reintroduction and investigating associated human sociological
59 aspects; ~~and~~ assessing the potential for panther habitat
60 acquisition; and acquiring lands for panther habitat.

61 **Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 379.206, Florida**
62 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

63 379.206 Grants and Donations Trust Fund.—

64 (2) The fund is established for use as a depository for
65 funds to be used for allowable grant and donor agreement
66 activities ~~funded by restricted contractual revenue.~~ Moneys to
67 be credited to the trust fund shall consist of grants and
68 donations from private and public nonfederal sources,
69 development-of-regional-impact wildlife mitigation
70 contributions, interest earnings, and cash advances from other
71 trust funds.

72 **Section 4. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 379.209,**
73 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

74 379.209 Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund.—

75 (2) (a) There is established within the Fish and Wildlife

76 Conservation Commission the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund. The
 77 fund shall be credited with moneys collected pursuant to ss.
 78 319.32(3) and 320.02(8). Additional funds may be provided from
 79 legislative appropriations and by donations from interested
 80 individuals and organizations. The commission may invest and
 81 reinvest the funds and the interest thereof of the Nongame
 82 Wildlife Trust Fund. ~~The commission shall designate an~~
 83 ~~identifiable unit to administer the trust fund.~~

84 (b) Proceeds from the trust fund shall be used for the
 85 following purposes:

86 1. Documentation of population trends of nongame wildlife
 87 and assessment of wildlife habitat, in coordination with the
 88 database of Florida natural areas inventory.

89 2. Establishment of effective conservation, management,
 90 and regulatory programs for nongame wildlife of the state.

91 3. Public education programs.

92 4. Law enforcement.

93 (3) The commission may enter into cooperative agreements,
 94 voluntary agreements, or memoranda of understanding with related
 95 agencies and private landowners to coordinate nongame programs.

96 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.