

HB 1421

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to cattle grazing on state land;
amending s. 253.034, F.S.; requiring land managing
entities to consider the feasibility of leasing
portions of land to private entities for cattle-
grazing when land management plans are being developed
or updated; providing requirements for the land
management plan; requiring land managing entities to
allow such lands to be leased for such purpose under
certain conditions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (d) through (i) of subsection (5) of section 253.034, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (e) through (j), respectively, a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, and subsection (4) and present paragraph (g) of subsection (5) of that section are amended, to read:

253.034 State-owned lands; uses.—

(4) A management agreement, lease, or other instrument authorizing the use of lands owned by the board of trustees may not be executed for a period greater than is necessary to provide for the reasonable use of the land for the existing or planned life cycle or amortization of the improvements, except

HB 1421

2026

26 that an easement in perpetuity may be granted by the board of
27 trustees if the improvement is a transportation facility. If an
28 entity managing or leasing state-owned lands from the board of
29 trustees does not meet the short-term goals under paragraph
30 (5) (b) for conservation lands, the Department of Environmental
31 Protection may submit the lands to the Acquisition and
32 Restoration Council to review whether the short-term goals
33 should be modified, consider whether the lands should be offered
34 to another entity for management or leasing, or recommend to the
35 board of trustees whether to surplus the lands. If an entity
36 managing or leasing state-owned lands from the board of trustees
37 does not meet the short-term goals under paragraph (5) (j) +5)(i)
38 for nonconservation lands, the department may submit the lands
39 to the board of trustees to consider whether to require the
40 managing or leasing entity to release its interest in the lands
41 and to consider whether to surplus the lands. If the state-owned
42 lands are determined to be surplus, the board of trustees may
43 require an entity to release its interest in the lands. An
44 entity managing or leasing state-owned lands from the board of
45 trustees may not sublease such lands without prior review by the
46 Division of State Lands and, for conservation lands, by the
47 Acquisition and Restoration Council. All management agreements,
48 leases, or other instruments authorizing the use of lands owned
49 by the board of trustees shall be reviewed for approval by the
50 board of trustees or its designee. The council is not required

HB 1421

2026

51 to review subleases of parcels which are less than 160 acres in
52 size.

53 (5) Each manager of conservation lands shall submit to the
54 Division of State Lands a land management plan at least every 10
55 years in a form and manner adopted by rule of the board of
56 trustees and in accordance with s. 259.032. Each manager of
57 conservation lands shall also update a land management plan
58 whenever the manager proposes to add new facilities or make
59 substantive land use or management changes that were not
60 addressed in the approved plan, or within 1 year after the
61 addition of significant new lands. Each manager of
62 nonconservation lands shall submit to the Division of State
63 Lands a land use plan at least every 10 years in a form and
64 manner adopted by rule of the board of trustees. The division
65 shall review each plan for compliance with the requirements of
66 this subsection and the requirements of the rules adopted by the
67 board of trustees pursuant to this section. All nonconservation
68 land use plans, whether for single-use or multiple-use
69 properties, must be managed to provide the greatest benefit to
70 the state. Plans for managed areas larger than 1,000 acres must
71 contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the
72 property which includes the potential of the property to
73 generate revenues to enhance the management of the property. In
74 addition, the plan must contain an analysis of the potential use
75 of private land managers to facilitate the restoration or

76 management of these lands and whether nonconservation lands
77 would be more appropriately transferred to the county or
78 municipality in which the land is located for the purpose of
79 providing affordable multifamily rental housing that meets the
80 criteria of s. 420.0004(3). If a newly acquired property has a
81 valid conservation plan that was developed by a soil and water
82 conservation district, such plan must be used to guide
83 management of the property until a formal land use plan is
84 completed.

85 (d) When a land management plan is developed or updated,
86 the land managing entity must consider the feasibility of
87 leasing portions of the land to private entities for cattle
88 grazing. Any lands determined to be suitable must be described
89 in the land management plan, and the land managing entity must
90 allow such lands to be leased for such purpose. If the land
91 managing entity determines no portions of the land are suitable
92 for such leases, the entity must include an explanation for its
93 determination in the land management plan.

94 (h) (g) The Division of State Lands shall make available to
95 the public at least 30 days before the public hearing required
96 by paragraph (g) (f) an electronic copy of each land management
97 plan for parcels that exceed 160 acres in size and for parcels
98 located within a state park. The division shall review each plan
99 for compliance with the requirements of this subsection, the
100 requirements of chapter 259, and the requirements of the rules

101 adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to this section. The
102 Acquisition and Restoration Council shall also consider the
103 propriety of the recommendations of the managing entity with
104 regard to the future use of the property, the protection of
105 fragile or nonrenewable resources, the potential for alternative
106 or multiple uses not recognized by the managing entity, and the
107 possibility of disposal of the property by the board of
108 trustees. After its review, the council shall submit the plan,
109 along with its recommendations and comments, to the board of
110 trustees. The council shall specifically recommend to the board
111 of trustees whether to approve the plan as submitted, approve
112 the plan with modifications, or reject the plan. If the council
113 fails to make a recommendation for a land management plan, the
114 Secretary of Environmental Protection, Commissioner of
115 Agriculture, or executive director of the Fish and Wildlife
116 Conservation Commission or their designees must submit the land
117 management plan to the board of trustees.

118 **Section 2.** The amendments made to s. 253.034, Florida
119 Statutes, by this act apply to land management plans developed
120 or updated on or after July 1, 2026.

121 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.