

By Senator Truenow

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

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
15 Section 1. Present paragraphs (d) through (i) of subsection  
16 (5) of section 253.034, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
17 paragraphs (e) through (j), respectively, a new paragraph (d) is  
18 added to that subsection, and subsection (4) and present  
19 paragraph (g) of subsection (5) of that section are amended, to  
20 read:

21 253.034 State-owned lands; uses.—

22 (4) A management agreement, lease, or other instrument  
23 authorizing the use of lands owned by the board of trustees may  
24 not be executed for a period greater than is necessary to  
25 provide for the reasonable use of the land for the existing or  
26 planned life cycle or amortization of the improvements, except  
27 that an easement in perpetuity may be granted by the board of  
28 trustees if the improvement is a transportation facility. If an  
29 entity managing or leasing state-owned lands from the board of

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trustees does not meet the short-term goals under paragraph (5)(b) for conservation lands, the Department of Environmental Protection may submit the lands to the Acquisition and Restoration Council to review whether the short-term goals should be modified, consider whether the lands should be offered to another entity for management or leasing, or recommend to the board of trustees whether to surplus the lands. If an entity managing or leasing state-owned lands from the board of trustees does not meet the short-term goals under paragraph (5)(j) ~~(5)(i)~~ for nonconservation lands, the department may submit the lands to the board of trustees to consider whether to require the managing or leasing entity to release its interest in the lands and to consider whether to surplus the lands. If the state-owned lands are determined to be surplus, the board of trustees may require an entity to release its interest in the lands. An entity managing or leasing state-owned lands from the board of trustees may not sublease such lands without prior review by the Division of State Lands and, for conservation lands, by the Acquisition and Restoration Council. All management agreements, leases, or other instruments authorizing the use of lands owned by the board of trustees shall be reviewed for approval by the board of trustees or its designee. The council is not required to review subleases of parcels which are less than 160 acres in size.

(5) Each manager of conservation lands shall submit to the Division of State Lands a land management plan at least every 10 years in a form and manner adopted by rule of the board of trustees and in accordance with s. 259.032. Each manager of conservation lands shall also update a land management plan

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whenever the manager proposes to add new facilities or make substantive land use or management changes that were not addressed in the approved plan, or within 1 year after the addition of significant new lands. Each manager of nonconservation lands shall submit to the Division of State Lands a land use plan at least every 10 years in a form and manner adopted by rule of the board of trustees. The division shall review each plan for compliance with the requirements of this subsection and the requirements of the rules adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to this section. All nonconservation land use plans, whether for single-use or multiple-use properties, must be managed to provide the greatest benefit to the state. Plans for managed areas larger than 1,000 acres must contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the property which includes the potential of the property to generate revenues to enhance the management of the property. In addition, the plan must contain an analysis of the potential use of private land managers to facilitate the restoration or management of these lands and whether nonconservation lands would be more appropriately transferred to the county or municipality in which the land is located for the purpose of providing affordable multifamily rental housing that meets the criteria of s. 420.0004(3). If a newly acquired property has a valid conservation plan that was developed by a soil and water conservation district, such plan must be used to guide management of the property until a formal land use plan is completed.

(d) When a land management plan is developed or updated,  
the land managing entity must consider the feasibility of

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88 leasing portions of the land to private entities for cattle  
89 grazing. Any lands determined to be suitable must be described  
90 in the land management plan, and the land managing entity must  
91 allow such lands to be leased for such purpose. If the land  
92 managing entity determines no portions of the land are suitable  
93 for such leases, the entity must include an explanation for its  
94 determination in the land management plan.

95 (h)~~(g)~~ The Division of State Lands shall make available to  
96 the public at least 30 days before the public hearing required  
97 by paragraph (g) ~~(f)~~ an electronic copy of each land management  
98 plan for parcels that exceed 160 acres in size and for parcels  
99 located within a state park. The division shall review each plan  
100 for compliance with the requirements of this subsection, the  
101 requirements of chapter 259, and the requirements of the rules  
102 adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to this section. The  
103 Acquisition and Restoration Council shall also consider the  
104 propriety of the recommendations of the managing entity with  
105 regard to the future use of the property, the protection of  
106 fragile or nonrenewable resources, the potential for alternative  
107 or multiple uses not recognized by the managing entity, and the  
108 possibility of disposal of the property by the board of  
109 trustees. After its review, the council shall submit the plan,  
110 along with its recommendations and comments, to the board of  
111 trustees. The council shall specifically recommend to the board  
112 of trustees whether to approve the plan as submitted, approve  
113 the plan with modifications, or reject the plan. If the council  
114 fails to make a recommendation for a land management plan, the  
115 Secretary of Environmental Protection, Commissioner of  
116 Agriculture, or executive director of the Fish and Wildlife

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117 Conservation Commission or their designees must submit the land  
118 management plan to the board of trustees.

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

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