

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to conservation lands; amending s.
3 253.0341, F.S.; requiring the Division of State Lands
4 to publish certain information on its website before
5 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement
6 Trust Fund meets to review the proposed sale of
7 conservation lands; amending s. 253.42, F.S.;
8 requiring that certain parcels proposed for exchange
9 be appraised in accordance with certain criteria;
10 deleting provisions requiring the division to submit
11 certain requests to the Acquisition and Restoration
12 Council for review; deleting provisions requiring the
13 division to provide certain recommendations to the
14 board; requiring the division to publish certain
15 information on its website before the council meets to
16 review a proposed land exchange; requiring the
17 division to submit certain requests to the council for
18 review and requiring the council to provide
19 recommendations to the division in certain
20 circumstances; requiring the division to provide
21 certain recommendations to the board of trustees in
22 certain circumstances; making a technical change;
23 amending s. 373.089, F.S.; requiring the governing
24 board of a water management district to publish
25 certain information on its website before meeting to

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review the proposed sale or exchange of certain lands;
amending s. 215.196, F.S.; conforming a cross-
reference; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsections (8) through (19) of section 253.0341, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (9) through (20), respectively, and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

253.0341 Surplus of state-owned lands.—

(8) At least 30 days before the board of trustees meets to review the proposed sale of conservation lands, the Division of State Lands must publish the following information on its website:

(a) The parcels of state-owned land for sale; and

(b) A statement explaining why the lands are no longer needed for conservation purposes, for consideration by the board of trustees.

Section 2. Present paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (4) of section 253.42, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d), (e), and (f), respectively, new paragraphs (b) and (c) are added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of that subsection is amended, to read:

253.42 Board of trustees may exchange lands.—This section

51 applies to all lands owned by, vested in, or titled in the name
52 of the board of trustees whether the lands were acquired by the
53 state as a purchase, or through gift, donation, or any other
54 conveyance for which no consideration was paid.

55 (4) (a) A person who owns land contiguous to state-owned
56 land titled to the board of trustees may submit a request to the
57 Division of State Lands to exchange all or a portion of the
58 privately owned land for all or a portion of the state-owned
59 land, whereby the state retains a permanent conservation
60 easement over all or a portion of the exchanged state-owned land
61 and a permanent conservation easement over all or a portion of
62 the exchanged privately owned land. State-owned land exchanged
63 pursuant to this subsection must ~~shall~~ be contiguous to the
64 privately owned land upon which the state retains a permanent
65 conservation easement. Each parcel proposed for exchange
66 pursuant to this subsection must have at least one appraisal
67 that follows the appraisal criteria, techniques, and methods
68 adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to s. 253.025(8)(e) ~~If~~
69 ~~the division elects to proceed with a request, the division must~~
70 ~~submit the request to the Acquisition and Restoration Council~~
71 ~~for review and the council must provide recommendations to the~~
72 ~~division. If the division elects to forward a request to the~~
73 ~~board of trustees, the division must provide its recommendations~~
74 ~~and the recommendations of the council to the board. This~~
75 subsection does not apply to state-owned sovereign submerged

land.

(b) At least 30 days before the Acquisition and Restoration Council meets to review the proposed land exchange of conservation lands, the Division of State Lands shall publish the following information on its website:

1. The parcels of state-owned lands proposed for exchange;

2. The privately owned parcels of land proposed for exchange;

3. The portions of the lands identified in subparagraphs 1. and 2. which will be preserved in a permanent conservation easement;

4. A statement from the division explaining how the exchange will result in a conservation benefit to the state; and

5. Any recommendations from the division and the council related to the request.

(c) If the Division of State Lands elects to proceed with a request, the division must submit the request to the council for review, and the council must provide recommendations to the division. If the division elects to forward a request to the board of trustees, the division must provide its recommendations and the recommendations of the council to the board.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 373.089, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.089 Sale or exchange of lands, or interests or rights in lands.—The governing board of the district may sell lands, or

101 interests or rights in lands, to which the district has acquired
102 title or to which it may hereafter acquire title in the
103 following manner:

104 (6) Any lands the title to which is vested in the
105 governing board of a water management district may be surplused
106 pursuant to the procedures set forth in this section and s.
107 373.056 and the following:

108 (a) For those lands designated as acquired for
109 conservation purposes, the governing board shall make a
110 determination that the lands are no longer needed for
111 conservation purposes and may dispose of them by a two-thirds
112 vote. At least 30 days before the governing board meets to
113 review the proposed sale or exchange of such lands, the
114 governing board shall publish the following information on its
115 website, as applicable:

116 1. The parcels of district-owned lands for sale or
117 proposed for exchange;

118 2. The parcels of privately owned lands proposed for
119 exchange;

120 3. The portions of the lands identified in subparagraphs
121 1. and 2. which will be preserved in a permanent conservation
122 easement; and

123 4. A statement from the district explaining why the lands
124 are no longer needed for conservation purposes.
125

126 If the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
127 declines to accept title to the lands offered under this
128 section, the land may be disposed of by the district under the
129 provisions of this section.

130 **Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 215.196, Florida**
131 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

132 215.196 Architects Incidental Trust Fund; creation;
133 assessment.—

134 (1) There is created the Architects Incidental Trust Fund
135 for the purpose of:

136 (a) Collecting all funds received through the sale of
137 surplus state-owned office buildings, as defined in s. 255.248,
138 and the nonconservation lands associated with such buildings;

139 (b) Diverting funds referenced in s. 253.0341(15)(b) ~~s.~~
140 ~~253.0341(14)(b)~~; and

141 (c) Providing sufficient funds for the operation of the
142 facilities development activities of the Department of
143 Management Services.

144 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.