

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

26 certain information on its website before meeting to
27 review the proposed sale or exchange of certain lands;
28 amending s. 215.196, F.S.; conforming a cross-
29 reference; providing an effective date.

30
31 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

32
33 **Section 1. Present subsections (7) through (19) of section**
34 **253.0341, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (8)**
35 **through (20), respectively, subsection (11) of that section is**
36 **amended, and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to**
37 **read:**

38 253.0341 Surplus of state-owned lands.—

39 (7) At least 30 days before any meeting of the Acquisition
40 and Restoration Council or the board of trustees to review the
41 proposed sale of conservation lands, the Division of State Lands
42 must publish the following information on its website:

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

44 (b) A statement from the division explaining why the lands
45 are no longer needed for conservation purposes.

46 (11) Requests to surplus lands may be made by any public
47 or private entity or person and shall be determined by the board
48 of trustees. All requests to surplus conservation lands shall be
49 submitted to the lead managing agency for review and
50 recommendation to the Acquisition and Restoration Council, and

all requests to surplus nonconservation lands shall be submitted to the Division of State Lands for review and recommendation to the board of trustees. The lead managing agencies shall review such requests and make recommendations to the council within 90 days after receipt of the requests. Any requests to surplus conservation lands that are not acted upon within the 90-day period shall be immediately scheduled for hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council. Requests to surplus lands shall be considered by the board of trustees within 60 days after receipt of the requests from the council or division. Requests to surplus lands pursuant to this subsection are not required to be offered to state agencies as provided in subsection (8) ~~(7)~~.

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, paragraph (a) of that subsection is amended, and new paragraphs (b) and (c) are added to that subsection, to read:

253.42 Board of trustees may exchange lands.—This section applies to all lands owned by, vested in, or titled in the name of the board of trustees whether the lands were acquired by the state as a purchase, or through gift, donation, or any other conveyance for which no consideration was paid.

(4) (a) A person who owns land contiguous to state-owned land titled to the board of trustees may submit a request to the

76 Division of State Lands to exchange all or a portion of the
77 privately owned land for all or a portion of the state-owned
78 land, whereby the state retains a permanent conservation
79 easement over all or a portion of the exchanged state-owned land
80 and a permanent conservation easement over all or a portion of
81 the exchanged privately owned land. State-owned land exchanged
82 pursuant to this subsection must ~~shall~~ be contiguous to the
83 privately owned land upon which the state retains a permanent
84 conservation easement. Each parcel proposed for exchange
85 pursuant to this subsection must have at least one appraisal
86 that follows the appraisal criteria, techniques, and methods
87 adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to s. 253.025(8)(e) ~~If~~
88 ~~the division elects to proceed with a request, the division must~~
89 ~~submit the request to the Acquisition and Restoration Council~~
90 ~~for review and the council must provide recommendations to the~~
91 ~~division. If the division elects to forward a request to the~~
92 ~~board of trustees, the division must provide its recommendations~~
93 ~~and the recommendations of the council to the board.~~ This
94 subsection does not apply to state-owned sovereign submerged
95 land.

96 (b) At least 30 days before any meeting of the Acquisition
97 and Restoration Council or the board of trustees to review the
98 proposed land exchange of conservation lands, the Division of
99 State Lands shall publish the following information on its
100 website:

- 101 1. The parcels of state-owned lands proposed for exchange;
102 2. The privately owned parcels of land proposed for
103 exchange;
104 3. The portions of the lands identified in subparagraphs
105 1. and 2. which will be preserved in a permanent conservation
106 easement;
107 4. A statement from the division explaining how the
108 exchange will result in a conservation benefit to the state; and
109 5. Any recommendations from the division and the council
110 related to the request.

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

117 **Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section**
118 **373.089, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

119 373.089 Sale or exchange of lands, or interests or rights
120 in lands.—The governing board of the district may sell lands, or
121 interests or rights in lands, to which the district has acquired
122 title or to which it may hereafter acquire title in the
123 following manner:

124 (6) Any lands the title to which is vested in the
125 governing board of a water management district may be surplusd

pursuant to the procedures set forth in this section and s. 373.056 and the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 215.196, Florida

Statutes, is amended to read:

215.196 Architects Incidental Trust Fund; creation;
assessment.—

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

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

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

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

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