

By Senator Mayfield

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to conservation lands; amending s. 253.0341, F.S.; requiring the Division of State Lands to publish certain information on its website before the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund meets to review the proposed sale of conservation lands; amending s. 253.42, F.S.; requiring that certain parcels proposed for exchange be appraised in accordance with certain criteria; deleting provisions requiring the division to submit certain requests to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for review; deleting provisions requiring the division to provide certain recommendations to the board; requiring the division to publish certain information on its website before the council meets to review a proposed land exchange; requiring the division to submit certain requests to the council for review and requiring the council to provide recommendations to the division in certain circumstances; requiring the division to provide certain recommendations to the board of trustees in certain circumstances; making a technical change; amending s. 373.089, F.S.; requiring the governing board of a water management district to publish certain information on its website before meeting to review the proposed sale or exchange of certain lands; amending s. 215.196, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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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 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 Division of State Lands to exchange all or a portion of the privately owned land for all or a portion of the state-owned

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land, whereby the state retains a permanent conservation easement over all or a portion of the exchanged state-owned land and a permanent conservation easement over all or a portion of the exchanged privately owned land. State-owned land exchanged pursuant to this subsection must ~~shall~~ be contiguous to the privately owned land upon which the state retains a permanent conservation easement. Each parcel proposed for exchange pursuant to this subsection must have at least one appraisal that follows the appraisal criteria, techniques, and methods adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to s. 253.025(8)(e) If the division elects to proceed with a request, the division must submit the request to the Acquisition and Restoration 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. This 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

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88 exchange will result in a conservation benefit to the state; and

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

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

97 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
98 373.089, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

99 373.089 Sale or exchange of lands, or interests or rights
100 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 governing
105 board of a water management district may be surplused pursuant
106 to the procedures set forth in this section and s. 373.056 and
107 the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

131 215.196 Architects Incidental Trust Fund; creation;
132 assessment.—

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

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

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

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

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