

Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation

CS/HB 1117 — Conservation of Wildlife

by Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; and Rep. Harrison (SB 1456 by Senator Diaz de la Portilla)

The bill allows 16 zoos and aquariums that are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in Florida to seek authorization from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and the Water Management Districts to use state lands to conduct enhanced research. The research could include the following areas: husbandry, reproductive biology, endocrinology, nutrition, genetics, behavior, health and ecology of native and non-native species of animals and birds. Projects involving mammalian species that are carnivores or primates are prohibited. The bill specifies that a detailed description of the proposed project include containment facilities and a plan to ensure the timely recovery of animals that have escaped due to natural disasters or other unforeseen events.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2012.

Vote: Senate 39-1; House 113-2