

HB 1215

2008

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State  
3 Park; creating s. 258.082, F.S.; requiring the Division of  
4 Recreation and Parks to amend the Fort Zachary Taylor  
5 Historic State Park Management Plan to require protection,  
6 maintenance, and preservation of the canopy of old  
7 Australian pine trees located on the grounds of the park  
8 for specified purposes; providing for the number of trees  
9 to be returned to those documented as existing in the  
10 Australian Pine Mapping Project of 2004; providing for the  
11 care and maintenance of such trees; providing for  
12 institution of a policy of controlled growth; providing  
13 that the act is not intended to authorize the sale or  
14 distribution of such trees; providing an effective date.

15  
16 WHEREAS, Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park,  
17 designated by the United States Department of Interior as a  
18 National Historic Landmark, has a towering canopy of old  
19 Australian pines, and

20 WHEREAS, the canopy of old Australian pines at Fort Zachary  
21 Taylor Historic State Park was the first growth on submerged  
22 federal land that was dredged and filled a half century ago, and

23 WHEREAS, the canopy of old Australian pines are drought  
24 tolerant, salt tolerant, low maintenance, energy efficient, and  
25 provide a beautifully unique and historic vista, and

26 WHEREAS, these Australian pines have become a cherished  
27 part of Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park's historical  
28 landscape, and

29 WHEREAS, the canopy of old Australian pines provides much-  
 30 needed shade to park visitors, and

31 WHEREAS, the canopy of old Australian pines offers  
 32 measurable social and economic benefits, NOW, THEREFORE,

33  
 34 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

35  
 36 Section 1. Section 258.082, Florida Statutes, is created  
 37 to read:

38 258.082 Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park.--

39 (1) Notwithstanding ss. 369.251 and 369.252 and any other  
 40 law, in order to preserve the historic character of Fort Zachary  
 41 Taylor Historic State Park for future generations and to benefit  
 42 all visitors to the park, the division shall:

43 (a) Amend the Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park  
 44 Management Plan to require protection, maintenance, and  
 45 preservation of the canopy of old Australian pine trees  
 46 (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) located on the grounds of the park  
 47 with the immediate objective of maintaining the old stand of  
 48 Australian pines that existed on January 1, 2008, and with the  
 49 long-term goal of restoring the number of Australian pines to  
 50 those documented as existing in the Australian Pine Mapping  
 51 Project of 2004;

52 (b) Commence a program of care and maintenance of  
 53 Australian pine seedlings, young trees, and mature trees to  
 54 ensure that the goals of paragraph (a) are achieved; and

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55 |       (c) Initiate a professional maintenance program to nurture  
56 | and protect the old Australian pines canopy and institute a  
57 | policy of controlled growth for replacement of any pines lost.

58 |       (2) This section does not authorize the sale or  
59 | distribution of Australian pines to and from public or private  
60 | parties.

61 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.