

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to implementation of the water and
 3 land conservation constitutional amendment; amending
 4 s. 375.041, F.S.; requiring a minimum specified
 5 percentage of funds within the Land Acquisition Trust
 6 Fund to be appropriated for Everglades restoration
 7 projects; providing a preference in the use of funds
 8 to certain projects that reduce discharges to the St.
 9 Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; providing an
 10 effective date.

11
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 14 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 375.041, Florida
 15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

17 (3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund
 18 pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

19 (a) First, to pay debt service or to fund debt service
 20 reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with
 21 respect to Florida Forever bonds issued under s. 215.618; and
 22 pay debt service, provide reserves, and pay rebate obligations
 23 and other amounts due with respect to Everglades restoration
 24 bonds issued under s. 215.619; and

25 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required
 26 under paragraph (a) but before funds may be appropriated or

27 dedicated for other uses, a minimum of the lesser of 25 percent
28 or \$200 million shall be appropriated annually for Everglades
29 projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration
30 Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central
31 Everglades Planning Project subject to congressional
32 authorization; the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2);
33 and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as
34 set forth in s. 373.4595. From these funds, \$32 million shall be
35 distributed each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year
36 to the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term
37 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32
38 million distributed under this paragraph, from the funds
39 remaining, a minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100
40 million shall be appropriated each fiscal year through the 2025-
41 2026 fiscal year for the planning, design, engineering, and
42 construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as
43 set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades
44 Planning Project subject to congressional authorization. The
45 Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida
46 Water Management District shall give preference to those
47 Everglades restoration projects that reduce harmful discharges
48 of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee
49 estuaries in a timely manner ~~Then, to pay the debt service on~~
50 ~~bonds issued before February 1, 2009, by the South Florida Water~~
51 ~~Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management~~
52 ~~District, which are secured by revenues provided pursuant to~~

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53 ~~former s. 373.59, Florida Statutes 2014, or which are necessary~~
54 ~~to fund debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other~~
55 ~~amounts payable with respect to such bonds. This paragraph~~
56 ~~expires July 1, 2016; and~~

57 ~~(c) Then, to distribute \$32 million each fiscal year to~~
58 ~~the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term~~
59 ~~Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). This paragraph expires July~~
60 ~~1, 2024.~~

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.