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576-02210-17

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural  
Resources)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund;  
amending s. 375.041, F.S.; requiring a specified  
appropriation for certain projects related to the St.  
Johns River and its tributaries or the Keystone Lake  
Region; requiring the distribution to be reduced by an  
amount equal to the debt service paid on certain  
bonds; providing an effective date.

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

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

375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

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

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

(b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required  
under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,  
pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million



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27 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that  
28 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set  
29 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning  
30 Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term  
31 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades  
32 and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.  
33 From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal  
34 year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida  
35 Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in  
36 s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed  
37 under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of  
38 the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated  
39 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the  
40 planning, design, engineering, and construction of the  
41 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.  
42 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project  
43 subject to Congressional authorization. The Department of  
44 Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management  
45 District shall give preference to those Everglades restoration  
46 projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake  
47 Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a  
48 timely manner. For the purpose of performing the calculation  
49 provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid  
50 pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016,  
51 for the purposes set forth under paragraph (b) shall be added to  
52 the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph  
53 (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be  
54 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
55 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the



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56 purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

57 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million  
58 shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,  
59 protection, and management projects. For the purpose of  
60 performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the  
61 amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds  
62 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under  
63 paragraph (b) shall be added to the amount remaining after the  
64 payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the  
65 distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal  
66 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds  
67 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this  
68 subparagraph.

69 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually  
70 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St.  
71 Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to  
72 the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be  
73 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
74 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the  
75 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

76 4. The sum of \$45 million shall be appropriated annually to  
77 the St. Johns River Water Management District for projects  
78 dedicated to the restoration of the St. Johns River and its  
79 tributaries or the Keystone Heights Lake Region. Such funds may  
80 be used for land management and acquisition and for recreational  
81 opportunity and public access improvements connected with these  
82 areas. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to  
83 the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued  
84 after July 1, 2017, for the purposes set forth in this



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85 subparagraph.

86 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.