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
Heights Lake Region; requiring the distribution to be
reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid on
certain bonds; deleting an obsolete provision;
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
shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that
implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set
forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.

From these funds, $32 million shall be distributed each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the $32 million distributed under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or $100 million shall be appropriated each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District shall give preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the purpose of performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this paragraph (b) shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be
reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or $75 $50
million shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,
protection, and management projects. For the purpose of
performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the
amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds
issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
paragraph (b) shall be added to the amount remaining after the
payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the
distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal
to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
subparagraph.

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

4. The sum of $64 million is appropriated and shall be
transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019
fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA
reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining
in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of
the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in
subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws
relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

5. The sum of $50 million shall be appropriated annually to the St. Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to the restoration of the St. Johns River and its tributaries or the Keystone Heights Lake Region. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2018, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2018.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.