

**By** the Committee on Appropriations; and Senators Bradley, Stewart, Perry, Bean, Taddeo, Mayfield, and Montford

576-02024-18

2018370c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund;  
3           amending s. 375.041, F.S.; requiring a specified  
4           annual appropriation to the Florida Forever Trust  
5           Fund; deleting an obsolete provision; prohibiting  
6           moneys from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund from being  
7           used for specified costs; providing an effective date.  
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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11           Section 1. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 375.041,  
12 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13           375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

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

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

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

25           1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million  
26 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that  
27 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set  
28 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning  
29 Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term

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

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59 purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

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

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

79 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be  
80 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019  
81 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA  
82 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining  
83 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of  
84 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in  
85 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws  
86 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such  
87 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount

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88 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be  
89 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
90 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the  
91 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

92 5. The sum of \$100 million shall be appropriated annually  
93 to the Florida Forever Trust Fund ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph~~  
94 ~~3., for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated~~  
95 ~~as provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph~~  
96 ~~expires July 1, 2018.~~

97 (4) Any remaining moneys in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund  
98 which are not distributed as provided in subsection (3) may be  
99 appropriated from time to time for the purposes set forth in s.  
100 28, Art. X of the State Constitution except that moneys  
101 distributed from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund may not be used  
102 for costs associated with the following budget entities:

103 (a) The Executive Direction and Support Services and the  
104 Technology and Information Services within the Department of  
105 Environmental Protection;

106 (b) The Executive Direction and Support Services and the  
107 Office of Agriculture Technology Services within the Department  
108 of Agriculture and Consumer Services;

109 (c) The Office of Executive Direction and Administrative  
110 Support Services within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
111 Commission; and

112 (d) The Executive Direction and Support Services within the  
113 Department of State.

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