

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Apalachicola stewardship; amending
 3 s. 375.041, F.S.; appropriating a sum annually for an
 4 identified period of time from the Land Acquisition
 5 Trust Fund to a specified area of critical state
 6 concern for specified purposes; amending s. 380.0555,
 7 F.S.; providing additional principles for guiding
 8 development within the Apalachicola Area of Critical
 9 State Concern to include projects that protect and
 10 improve water quality; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
 15 375.041, Florida 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 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required
 20 under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,
 21 pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

22 1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million
 23 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that
 24 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set
 25 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning

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

51 purposes set forth under paragraph (b) shall be added to the
52 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
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 \$64 million is appropriated and shall be
77 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019
78 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA
79 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining
80 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of
81 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in
82 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws
83 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such
84 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount
85 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be
86 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
87 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the
88 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

89 5. Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., for the 2018-2019
90 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as provided in the
91 General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1,
92 2019.

93 6. The sum of \$20 million shall be appropriated annually
94 each fiscal year through 2029-2030 to the area designated as an
95 area of critical state concern pursuant to s. 380.0555, to be
96 used for the acquisition of lands and projects that improve
97 surface and groundwater quality in the Apalachicola River and
98 Bay, and includes projects such as construction and replacement
99 of stormwater management facilities, central sewage collection
100 and disposal facilities; the installation of onsite sewage

101 treatment and disposal systems; direct and indirect potable
102 reuse; and other water quality and water supply projects. At
103 least 25 percent of the appropriated funds shall be spent on
104 land acquisition. Increased priority must be given to land
105 acquisitions that achieve a combination of conservation goals,
106 including protecting and preserving fisheries and wildlife
107 habitats, recreational spaces, nearshore water quality, surface
108 water resources, and groundwater recharge. At least 3 percent
109 but no more than 10 percent of the funds allocated for land
110 acquisition shall be spent on projects and activities identified
111 during the time of acquisition, including for land management,
112 increased public access and recreational opportunities, and
113 greenways.

114 Section 2. Paragraph (k) is added to subsection (7) of
115 section 380.0555, Florida Statutes, to read:

116 380.0555 Apalachicola Bay Area; protection and designation
117 as area of critical state concern.—

118 (7) PRINCIPLES FOR GUIDING DEVELOPMENT.—State, regional,
119 and local agencies and units of government in the Apalachicola
120 Bay Area shall coordinate their plans and conduct their programs
121 and regulatory activities consistently with the following
122 principles for guiding the development of the area:

123 (k) Water quality shall be protected and improved by the
124 construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of
125 stormwater management facilities; central sewage collection;

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126 | treatment and disposal facilities; the installation and proper
127 | operation and maintenance of onsite sewage treatment and
128 | disposal systems; indirect and direct potable reuse; and other
129 | water quality and water supply projects.

130 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.