A bill to be entitled
An act relating to environmental protection; creating s. 373.477, F.S.; requiring a minimum annual appropriation for Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources in this state beginning in a specified fiscal year; providing requirements for the allocation of such funding; providing for future repeal of the appropriation unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 373.477, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

373.477 Everglades restoration and protection of water resources.—For fiscal year 2020-2021, and annually thereafter, a minimum of $625 million shall be appropriated as provided in this section for the purposes of Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources in this state. The funding must be used for a science-based process to identify projects that are needed to achieve such restoration and protection.

(1) The annual appropriations to the Department of Environmental Protection must provide for the following distributions:

(a) The greater of $300 million or as provided pursuant to s. 375.041(3)(b)1., for Everglades restoration, and s. 375.041(3)(b)4., for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project.
(b) The sum of $50 million to the South Florida Water Management District for the design, engineering, and construction of aquifer storage and recovery wells.

(c) Funding for spring restoration pursuant to s. 375.041(3)(b)2.

(d) The sum of $40 million for alternative water supplies or water conservation.

(e) The sum of $15 million for projects within the watersheds of the St. Johns River, the Suwannee River, and the Apalachicola River.

(f) The sum of $15 million for projects within the watersheds of the Indian River Lagoon.

(g) The sum of $10 million for coral reef protection and restoration.

(2) The sum of $4 million to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for red tide research.

(3) Any remaining balance shall be allocated to fund any of the following:

(a) Targeted water quality improvements.

(b) Alternative water supplies or water conservation.

(c) Water quality enhancements and accountability, innovative technologies, and harmful algal bloom prevention and mitigation.

(d) Land acquisition or easement acquisition, including, but not limited to, lands or easements purchased pursuant to the Florida Forever program or the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

(4) This section is repealed on June 30, 2023, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
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59 Legislature.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.