1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; 3 amending s. 375.041, F.S.; providing an appropriation 4 for certain projects related to the Indian River 5 Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan; 6 authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection 7 to make grants for such projects; directing the 8 department to submit an annual report to the Governor 9 and Legislature; removing an obsolete provision; providing an effective date. 10 11 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 13 Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 14 Section 1. 15 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 16 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.-Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund 17 (3) 18 pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied: 19 Of the funds remaining after the payments required (b) 20 under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated, 21 pledged, or dedicated for other uses: A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million 22 1. 23 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that 24 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning 25

Page 1 of 6

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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 Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in 31 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 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the 35 36 planning, design, engineering, and construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 37 38 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the 39 Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage 40 41 Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand 42 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 paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the 50

Page 2 of 6

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51 purposes set forth under this paragraph 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 shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration, 58 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 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this 62 paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the 63 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 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this 67 68 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.

Page 3 of 6

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76 The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be 4. 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 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in 81 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.

5. The sum of \$50 million shall be appropriated annually to the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with s. 373.4599. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2021, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

96 6. <u>A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million</u>
97 <u>shall be appropriated annually each fiscal year for projects</u>
98 <u>dedicated to the conservation and management of the Indian River</u>
99 <u>Lagoon. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to</u>
100 <u>the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued</u>

Page 4 of 6

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101 after July 1, 2023, for the purposes set forth in this 102 subparagraph. The Department of Environmental Protection shall 103 use the funds to make grants for projects that implement the 104 updated Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and 105 Management Plan, including multiyear grants for the planning and construction of such projects. The department shall coordinate 106 107 all such grants with the South Florida Water Management District 108 and the St. Johns River Water Management District. The 109 department, the South Florida Water Management District, and the 110 St. Johns River Water Management District shall coordinate such 111 grants with other water management districts as necessary. Preference shall be given to projects for ecosystem monitoring 112 and habitat restoration, projects to connect onsite sewage 113 114 treatment and disposal systems to central sewer systems, and 115 projects for the management of stormwater, freshwater, and 116 agricultural discharges. Grants for sewer system connection 117 projects and discharge management projects shall require a minimum 50 percent local match. Beginning January 1, 2024, and 118 119 each January 1 thereafter, the department shall submit a report 120 regarding the projects funded pursuant to this subparagraph to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of 121 122 the House of Representatives Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., 123 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as 124 provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2023. 125

Page 5 of 6

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126		Section	2.	This	act	shall	take	effect	July	1,	2023.	
Page 6 of 6												

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