

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

---

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

---

BILL: CS/SB 388

INTRODUCER: Committee on Appropriations and Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Trust Funds for Wildlife Management

DATE: April 4, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Carroll</u>	<u>Rogers</u>	<u>EN</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Betta</u>	<u>AEG</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
3.	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Sadberry</u>	<u>AP</u>	<b>Fav/CS</b>

---

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

---

**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 388 amends statutes that provide for two trust funds created within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

The bill specifies that the Grants and Donations Trust Fund must be used for grant and donor agreement activities regardless of the source of funding for those activities.

The bill authorizes the FWC to use proceeds from the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund for law enforcement purposes. It also allows the FWC to enter into cooperative agreements, voluntary agreements, or memoranda of understanding with related agencies and private landowners to coordinate nongame programs.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state resources or expenditures. **See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2025.

## II. Present Situation:

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Trust Funds

The FWC uses 13 trust funds to support its operations.<sup>1</sup> The FWC invests the proceeds and cash balances in the trust funds.<sup>2</sup>

#### *The Grants and Donations Trust Fund*

The Grants and Donations Trust Fund is a depository for funds to be used for allowable grant and donor agreement activities funded by restricted contractual revenue.<sup>3</sup> Moneys to be credited to the trust fund include grants and donations from private and public nonfederal sources, development-of-regional-impact wildlife mitigation contributions, interest earnings, and cash advances from other trust funds.<sup>4</sup>

#### *The Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund*

The Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund is credited with funds collected from fees for the issuance of original certificates of title for vehicles previously registered out-of-state and from donations from applicants who are registering their motor vehicles.<sup>5</sup> Any additional funds may be provided by legislative appropriation and donations from interested individuals and organizations.<sup>6</sup> The FWC may invest and reinvest funds in the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund and the interest thereof of the trust fund and must designate an identifiable unit to administer the trust fund.<sup>7</sup>

Proceeds from the trust fund must be used to:

- Document the population trends of nongame wildlife and assess wildlife habitat in coordination with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory database.
- Establish effective conservation, management, and regulatory programs for nongame wildlife.
- Provide for public education programs.<sup>8</sup>

The FWC is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements or memoranda of understanding with related agencies to coordinate nongame programs.<sup>9</sup>

## III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** amends the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in s. 379.206, F.S. Current language provides that the trust fund is a depository for funds that will be used for allowable grant and

---

<sup>1</sup> FWC, *Agency Analysis of SB 388*, 2 (Feb. 2025), on file with the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Section 379.206(2), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Section 379.209(2)(a), F.S.; see sections 319.32(3) and 320.10(8), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 379.209(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Section 379.209(2)(b), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 379.209(3), F.S.

donor agreement activities funded by restricted contractual revenue. The bill removes the language that requires the grant and donor agreement activities to be funded by restricted contractual revenue.

**Section 2** amends the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund in s. 379.209, F.S. The bill removes the current requirement that the FWC must designate an identifiable unit to administer the trust fund.

In addition to the current purposes of the trust fund, the bill requires the proceeds from the trust fund may also be used for law enforcement purposes.

Current law authorizes the FWC to enter into cooperative agreements or memoranda of understanding with related agencies to coordinate nongame programs. The bill adds that the FWC may enter into voluntary agreements. It also allows the FWC to enter into cooperative agreements, voluntary agreements, or memoranda of understanding with private landowners.

**Section 3** provides an effective date of July 1, 2025.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 379.206 and 379.209.

**IX. Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Committee on Appropriations on April 3, 2025:**

The committee on substitute removes all amendments to the underlying bill to the FWC's Administrative Trust Fund and the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund.

B. Amendments:

None.