

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to implementation of the water and
 3 land conservation constitutional amendment; amending
 4 s. 375.041, F.S.; requiring a minimum specified
 5 percentage of funds within the Land Acquisition Trust
 6 Fund to be appropriated for Everglades restoration
 7 projects; providing a preference in the use of funds
 8 to certain projects that reduce discharges to the St.
 9 Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; providing an
 10 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. Subsection (3) of section 375.041, Florida
 15 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 (a) First, to pay debt service or to fund debt service
 20 reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with
 21 respect to Florida Forever bonds issued under s. 215.618; and
 22 pay debt service, provide reserves, and pay rebate obligations
 23 and other amounts due with respect to Everglades restoration
 24 bonds issued under s. 215.619; and

25 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required
 26 under paragraph (a) but before funds may be appropriated or

27 dedicated for other uses, a minimum of the lesser of 25 percent
28 or \$200 million shall be appropriated annually for Everglades
29 projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration
30 Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, the Long-Term Plan as defined
31 in s. 373.4592(2), including the Central Everglades Planning
32 Project subject to congressional authorization, and the Northern
33 Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s.
34 373.4595. From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed
35 each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South
36 Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as
37 defined in s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million
38 distributed under this paragraph, from the funds remaining, a
39 minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be
40 appropriated each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year
41 for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the
42 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.
43 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project
44 subject to congressional authorization. The Department of
45 Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management
46 District shall give preference to those Everglades restoration
47 projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake
48 Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a
49 timely manner ~~Then, to pay the debt service on bonds issued~~
50 ~~before February 1, 2009, by the South Florida Water Management~~
51 ~~District and the St. Johns River Water Management District,~~
52 ~~which are secured by revenues provided pursuant to former s.~~

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53 ~~373.59, Florida Statutes 2014, or which are necessary to fund~~
54 ~~debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts~~
55 ~~payable with respect to such bonds. This paragraph expires July~~
56 ~~1, 2016; and~~

57 ~~(c) Then, to distribute \$32 million each fiscal year to~~
58 ~~the South Florida Water Management District for the Long Term~~
59 ~~Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). This paragraph expires July~~
60 ~~1, 2024.~~

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.