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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; amending s. 375.041, F.S.; providing an appropriation for certain projects related to the Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to make grants for such projects; providing for a specified local match for such grants; requiring the department to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature; removing an obsolete provision; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.-

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(3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

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(a) First, to pay debt service or to fund debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with respect to Florida Forever bonds issued under s. 215.618; and pay debt service, provide reserves, and pay rebate obligations and other amounts due with respect to Everglades restoration

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bonds issued under s. 215.619; and

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(b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated, pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

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A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595. From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection

and the South Florida Water Management District shall give preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the purpose of performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this paragraph (b) shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then 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 under this subparagraph.

2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration, protection, and management projects. For the purpose of performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this paragraph (b) shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then 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 under this 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.

- 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.
- 5. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million must be appropriated each fiscal year for projects dedicated to the conservation and management of the Indian River Lagoon. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after

101 July 1, 2020, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph. 102 The Department of Environmental Protection shall use the funds 103 to make grants for projects that implement the Indian River 104 Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan that was 105 last updated in 2008, including multiyear grants for the 106 planning and construction of such projects. The department shall 107 coordinate all such grants with the South Florida Water 108 Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management 109 District. The department, the South Florida Water Management 110 District, and the St. Johns River Water Management District, as 111 necessary, shall coordinate such grants with other water 112 management districts. Preference must be given to projects that 113 monitor ecosystems and restore habitats, connect onsite sewage 114 treatment and disposal systems to central sewer systems, and 115 manage stormwater, freshwater, and agricultural discharges. 116 Grants for sewer system connection projects and discharge 117 management projects must require a minimum 50 percent local 118 match. Beginning January 1, 2021, and each January 1 thereafter, 119 the department shall submit a report on the projects funded 120 pursuant to this subparagraph to the Governor, the President of 121 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives 122 Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, 123 funds shall be appropriated as provided in the General 124 Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2020. 125 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

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