

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Conforming Bill
Relating to Natural Resources

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Natural Resources; conforming a cross-
3 reference; amending s. 373.0693, F.S.; deleting a provision
4 requiring legislative approval before the establishment of a
5 subdistrict or basin takes effect; clarifying that funds collected
6 within the Okeechobee Basin are utilized for flood control
7 purposes; amending s. 373.079, F.S.; revising quorum requirements
8 for water management district boards; amending s. 373.470, F.S.;
9 revising everglades restoration reporting requirements; requiring
10 the district to develop a maintenance plan and public dashboard;
11 and amending s. 373.501, F.S.; clarifying the use of state funds
12 as match for state grant funded water management district projects;
13 amending s. 373.535, F.S.; revising budget submittal requirements
14 for water management districts; amending s. 373.536, F.S.;
15 revising the tentative budget submittal requirements; amending s.
16 375.041, F.S.; revising the application of distributions made into
17 the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; creating s. 380.095, F.S.;
18 providing requirements for the distribution of funds within the
19 Indian Revenue Clearing Trust Fund; providing an effective date.

20
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22
23 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section
24 373.026, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) of that
25 subsection is reenacted, to read:

26 373.026 General powers and duties of the department. -The
27 department, or its successor agency, shall be responsible for
28 the administration of this chapter at the state level. However,

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29 | it is the policy of the state that, to the greatest extent
30 | possible, the department may enter into interagency or
31 | interlocal agreements with any other state agency, any water
32 | management district, or any local government conducting programs
33 | related to or materially affecting the water resources of the
34 | state. All such agreements shall be subject to the provisions of
35 | s. 373.046. In addition to its other powers and duties, the
36 | department shall, to the greatest extent possible:

37 | (8)

38 | (b) To ensure to the greatest extent possible that project
39 | components will go forward as planned, the department shall
40 | collaborate with the South Florida Water Management District in
41 | implementing the comprehensive plan as defined in s.
42 | 373.470(2)(b), the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan as
43 | defined in s. 373.4595(2), and the River Watershed Protection
44 | Plans as defined in s. 373.4595(2). Before any project component
45 | is submitted to Congress for authorization or receives an
46 | appropriation of state funds, the department must approve, or
47 | approve with amendments, each project component within 60 days
48 | following formal submittal of the project component to the
49 | department. Prior to the release of state funds for the
50 | implementation of the comprehensive plan, department approval
51 | shall be based upon a determination of the South Florida Water
52 | Management District's compliance with s.373.1501(6)~~s.~~
53 | ~~373.1501(5)~~. Once a project component is approved, the South
54 | Florida Water Management District shall provide to the President
55 | of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
56 | schedule for implementing the project component, the estimated

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57 | total cost of the project component, any existing federal or
58 | nonfederal credits, the estimated remaining federal and
59 | nonfederal share of costs, and an estimate of the amount of
60 | state funds that will be needed to implement the project
61 | component. All requests for an appropriation of state funds
62 | needed to implement the project component shall be submitted to
63 | the department, and such requests shall be included in the
64 | department's annual request to the Governor. Prior to the
65 | release of state funds for the implementation of the Lake
66 | Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan or the River Watershed
67 | Protection Plans, on an annual basis, the South Florida Water
68 | Management District shall prepare an annual work plan as part of
69 | the consolidated annual report required in s. 373.036(7). Upon a
70 | determination by the secretary of the annual work plan's
71 | consistency with the goals and objectives of s. 373.4595, the
72 | secretary may approve the release of state funds. Any
73 | modifications to the annual work plan shall be submitted to the
74 | secretary for review and approval.

75 | (d) The Executive Office of the Governor, pursuant to its
76 | duties under s. 373.536(5) to approve or disapprove, in whole or
77 | in part, the budget of each water management district, shall
78 | review all proposed expenditures for project components in the
79 | district's budget.

80 | Section 2. Subsection (1) and (10) of section 373.0693,
81 | Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

82 | 373.0693 Basins; basin boards.—

83 | (1) ~~(a)~~ Any areas within a district may be designated by the
84 | district governing board as subdistricts or basins. The

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85 designations of such basins shall be made by the district
86 governing board by resolutions thereof. The governing board of
87 the district may change the boundaries of such basins, or create
88 new basins, by resolution.

89 ~~(b) No subdistrict or basin in the St. Johns River Water~~
90 ~~Management District other than established by this act shall~~
91 ~~become effective until approved by the Legislature.~~

92 (10) At 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 1976, the entire area of
93 the South Florida Water Management District, including all areas
94 being annexed into the district pursuant to chapter 76-243, Laws
95 of Florida, but less those areas in the Big Cypress Basin, shall
96 be formed into a subdistrict or basin of the South Florida Water
97 Management District. Such area shall be designated as the
98 Okeechobee Basin.

99 (a) The governing board of the South Florida Water
100 Management District shall also serve as the governing board of
101 the Okeechobee Basin.

102 (b) The governing board of the South Florida Water
103 Management District may change the boundaries of the Okeechobee
104 Basin or may subdivide the basin into smaller basins to be
105 governed by basin boards to be appointed by the Governor,
106 subject to confirmation by the Senate as provided in subsection
107 (4). However, the basin may not be enlarged to include the area
108 included within the initial boundaries of the Big Cypress Basin.

109 (c) The local effort required in connection with
110 construction, operation, and maintenance of the cooperative
111 federal project referred to as the Central and Southern Florida
112 Flood Control Project, which remains after the upper St. Johns

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113 | portion is transferred to the St. Johns River Water Management
114 | District, shall be funded by tax levies on all taxable property
115 | within the Okeechobee Basin. In the event the Okeechobee Basin
116 | is subdivided into smaller basins, as authorized in paragraph
117 | (b), the governing board shall ascertain the equitable pro rata
118 | share for each smaller basin and charge back such share so as to
119 | ensure that the portion of the Central and Southern Florida
120 | Flood Control Project remaining in the South Florida Water
121 | Management District shall continue to be funded on an equal
122 | basis throughout the entire Okeechobee Basin as initially
123 | described on December 31, 1976.

124 | (d) The South Florida Water Management District shall
125 | exclusively use the Okeechobee Basin ad valorem funds for
126 | operation, maintenance, refurbishment, and adaptation of South
127 | Florida Water Management District flood control infrastructure
128 | including the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project.

129 | Section 3. Subsection (7) of section 373.079, Florida
130 | Statutes, is amended to read:

131 | 373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office; staff.—

132 | (7) The governing board shall meet at least once a month
133 | and upon call of the chair. A quorum is necessary for the board
134 | to conduct official business. A majority of the members of the
135 | governing board, which includes both appointed members and
136 | vacancies, constitutes a quorum. A board member's appearance at
137 | a board meeting, whether such appearance is in person or through
138 | the use of communications media technology, must be counted for
139 | the determination of a quorum. Except where otherwise provided
140 | by law, action may be taken by the governing board only upon an

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141 affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the governing
142 board. The governing board, a basin board, a committee, or an
143 advisory board may conduct meetings by means of communications
144 media technology in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to s.
145 120.54(5)(b) ~~s. 120.54~~.

146 Section 4. Subsection (4) and (7) of Section 373.470,
147 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

148 373.470 Everglades restoration.—

149 (4) SAVE OUR EVERGLADES TRUST FUND; FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR
150 DEPOSIT.—The following funds may be deposited into the Save Our
151 Everglades Trust Fund created by s. 373.472 to finance
152 implementation of the comprehensive plan, the Lake Okeechobee
153 Watershed Protection Plan, the River Watershed Protection Plans,
154 and the Keys Wastewater Plan:

155 (a) Funds described in subsection (5).

156 (b) Federal funds appropriated by Congress for
157 implementation of the comprehensive plan, the Lake Okeechobee
158 Watershed Protection Plan, or the River Watershed Protection
159 Plans.

160 (c) Any additional funds appropriated by the Legislature for
161 the purpose of implementing the comprehensive plan, the Lake
162 Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan, the River Watershed
163 Protection Plans, or the Keys Wastewater Plan.

164 (d) Gifts designated for implementation of the comprehensive
165 plan, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan, the River
166 Watershed Protection Plans, or the Keys Wastewater Plan from
167 individuals, corporations, or other entities.

168 (e) Distributions authorized under s. 17.71(3)(a) and
169 375.041(3), F.S. for the maintenance program established under
170 (8).

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171 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—To provide enhanced oversight of and
172 accountability for the financial commitments established under
173 this section and the progress made in the implementation of the
174 comprehensive plan, the following information must be prepared
175 annually as part of the consolidated annual report required by
176 s. 373.036(7):

177 (c) The district, in cooperation with the department, shall
178 provide a detailed report on progress made in the implementation
179 of the comprehensive plan, including the total estimated
180 remaining cost of implementation of the comprehensive plan. The
181 report must also include the status of and applicable performance
182 indicators for all project components. The project components
183 must be subdivided into the following categories based on the
184 project's status:

185 1. Planning and design, including the status of any permits.

186 2. Construction, including project delivery milestones
187 related the project completion timelines and budget milestones.

188 3. Operations, including the performance of the project.

189 4. Projected maintenance for any completed project,
190 including any routine maintenance or larger maintenance or repair
191 work that is projected to be necessary in the lifecycle of the
192 project.

193 5. For projects that have not entered the planning and
194 design phase, a detailed overview of the project concept.

195 6. The estimated expenditures for the project in the prior
196 fiscal year compared to the actual expenditures, with an
197 explanation for significant variances.

198 (d) For a project or project component developed pursuant to
199 s. 255.065, the performance indicators in the report must be
200 consistent with national industry standards for the delivery
201 method.

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202 The information required in paragraphs (a), (b), ~~and (c)~~,
203 and (d) shall be provided as part of the consolidated annual
204 report required by s. 373.036(7). Each annual report is due by
205 March 1.

206 (8) CAPITAL MAINTENANCE PLAN—The South Florida Water
207 Management District shall create and maintain a capital
208 improvement plan for the maintenance needs of projects within the
209 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration plan.

210 (9) PUBLIC DASHBOARD.—The South Florida Water Management
211 District shall create and maintain a website to inform the
212 public on the progress of project implementation, including the
213 state and federal funded project partnership agreement and
214 status of the integrated delivery schedule.

215 Section 5. Subsection (3) is added to section 373.501,
216 Florida Statutes, to read:

217 373.501 Appropriation of funds to water management
218 districts.—

219 (3) A water management district may not use state funds as a
220 local match for any state grant program unless such funds have
221 been specifically appropriated or authorized by budget amendment
222 to the district for such purpose.

223 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 373.535, Florida
224 Statutes is amended to read:

225 373.535 Preliminary district budgets.—

226 (1) BUDGET DEVELOPMENT.—

227 (a) By January 15 of each year, each water management
228 district shall submit a preliminary budget for the next fiscal
229 year for legislative review to the President of the Senate, the
230 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of each
231 legislative committee and subcommittee having substantive or
232 fiscal jurisdiction over water management districts, as

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233 determined by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the
234 House of Representatives, as applicable, in the form and manner
235 prescribed in s. 373.536(5) (e).

236 (b) Each preliminary budget must also include:

237 1. A section that clearly identifies and provides
238 justification for each proposed expenditure listed in s.
239 373.536(5) (e)4.e. and f. and identifies the source of funds for
240 each proposed expenditure.

241 2. A section identifying the justification for proposed
242 expenditures by core mission area of responsibility and the
243 source of funds needed for activities related to water supply,
244 including alternative water supply and water resource development
245 projects identified in the district's regional water supply
246 plans, water quality, flood protection and floodplain management,
247 and natural systems.

248 3. A section reviewing the adopted and proposed budget
249 allocations by program area and the performance metrics for the
250 prior year.

251 4. A section that includes the district's capital
252 improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal
253 year, which will be incorporated as part of the district's 5-year
254 capital improvement plan. The following information must be
255 included for each project contained in the capital improvement
256 plan:

257 a. Estimated beginning and ending date.

258 b. Current status, such as planning, construction, or
259 operations.

260 c. Fund source, grouped by type, including federal, state,
261 and local pursuant to s. 373.503(3) (a)1., local pursuant to s.
262 373.503(3) (a)2., or other.

263 d. Total cost of the project.

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- 264 e. Whether the project is funded from reserves.
265 f. Total expenditures made to date, by fiscal year.
266 g. Current year estimated expenditures.
267 h. Annual budget, including future budget requests, until
268 project completion, by funding source.
269 i. Project description.
270 j. State program code, such as operations and maintenance or
271 ecosystems restoration.

272 54. An analysis of each preliminary budget to determine the
273 adequacy of fiscal resources available to the district and the
274 adequacy of proposed district expenditures related to the core
275 mission areas of responsibility for water supply, including
276 alternative water supply and water resource development projects
277 identified in the district's regional water supply plans, water
278 quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural
279 systems. The analysis must be based on the particular needs
280 within each district for core mission areas of responsibility.
281 The water supply analysis must specifically include a
282 determination of the adequacy of each district's fiscal resources
283 provided in the district's preliminary budget to achieve
284 appropriate progress toward meeting the districtwide 20-year
285 projected water supply demands, including funding for alternative
286 water supply development and conservation projects.

287 (c) ~~(b)~~ If applicable, the preliminary budget for each
288 district must specify that the district's first obligation for
289 payment is the debt service on bonds and certificates of
290 participation.

291 (d) In addition to the information that must be included for
292 projects carried out pursuant to the capital improvement plan in
293 subparagraph (b)3., the South Florida Water Management District
294 must include a separate section in its preliminary budget for all

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295 projects within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.
296 The information for the separate section must be provided on a
297 project-by-project basis and include the source of funds. For
298 each project, all of the following information must be included:

299 1. The project title, description, and an attached map of
300 the location of the project in correlation to the Everglades.

301 2. The total estimated cost of the project, delineated by
302 federal and nonfederal sponsor obligations. The local sponsor
303 obligations must be further delineated by state and district
304 obligations.

305 3. The timeline for the project.

306 4. The total expenditures to date and estimated remaining
307 expenditures needed for project completion.

308 5. The estimate of expenditures for the current year.

309 6. The estimate of expenditures for the next fiscal year.

310 (e) For expenditures funded by state appropriations, the
311 South Florida Water Management District must indicate which
312 fiscal year the appropriation is from. In estimating expenditures
313 for the next fiscal year, the district may incorporate state
314 revenues only in an amount up to the amount of funds specifically
315 provided in s. 375.041.

316 Section 7. Paragraphs (c) and (e) of subsection (5) of
317 section 373.536, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

318 373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.—

319 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND
320 APPROVAL.—

321 (c) The Legislative Budget Commission may reject any of the
322 following district budget proposals unless specifically
323 appropriated by the Legislature:

324 1. A single purchase of land in excess of \$10 million,
325 except for land exchanges.

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326 2. Any cumulative purchase of land during a single fiscal
327 year in excess of \$50 million.

328 3. Any issuance of debt on or after July 1, 2012.

329 4. Any program expenditure ~~expenditures~~ as described in sub-
330 subparagraphs (e)4.e. and f. in excess of 15 percent of a
331 district's total annual budget.

332 5. Any individual variance ~~variances~~ in a district's
333 tentative budget which is in excess of 25 percent from a
334 district's preliminary budget.

335

336 Written disapproval of any provision in the tentative budget
337 must be received by the district at least 5 business days before
338 the final district budget adoption hearing conducted under s.
339 200.065(2)(d). If written disapproval is not received at least 5
340 business days before the final budget adoption hearing, the
341 governing board may proceed with final adoption. Any provision
342 rejected by the Executive Office of the Governor or the
343 Legislative Budget Commission may not be included in a
344 district's final budget and may not be acted upon through any
345 other means without the prior approval of the entity rejecting
346 the provision.

347 (e) The tentative budget must be based on the preliminary
348 budget as submitted to the Legislature, and as may be amended by
349 the district in response to review by the Legislature pursuant to
350 ss. 373.503 and 373.535, as the basis for developing the
351 tentative budget for the next fiscal year as provided in this
352 subsection, however, this subsection may not be construed to
353 impair any contractual obligations. The tentative budget ~~and~~ must
354 set forth the proposed expenditures of the district, to which may
355 be added an amount to be held as reserve. The tentative budget
356 must include, but is not limited to, the following information

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357 | for the preceding fiscal year and the current fiscal year, and
358 | the proposed amounts for the upcoming fiscal year, in a standard
359 | format prescribed by the Executive Office of the Governor, in
360 | consultation with the Legislature:

361 | 1. The estimated amount of funds remaining at the beginning
362 | of the fiscal year which have been obligated for the payment of
363 | outstanding commitments not yet completed.

364 | 2. The estimated amount of unobligated funds or net cash
365 | balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year; an
366 | accounting of the source, balance, and projected future use of
367 | the unobligated funds; and the estimated amount of funds to be
368 | raised by district taxes or received from other sources to meet
369 | the requirements of the district.

370 | 3. The millage rates and the percentage increase above the
371 | rolled-back rate, together with a summary of the reasons the
372 | increase is required, and the percentage increase in taxable
373 | value resulting from new construction within the district.

374 | 4. The salaries and benefits, expenses, operating capital
375 | outlay, number of authorized positions, and other personal
376 | services for the following program areas of the district:

- 377 | a. Water resource planning and monitoring;
378 | b. Land acquisition, restoration, and public works;
379 | c. Operation and maintenance of works and lands;
380 | d. Regulation;
381 | e. Outreach for which the information provided must contain
382 | a full description and accounting of expenditures for water
383 | resources education; public information and public relations,
384 | including public service announcements and advertising in any
385 | media; and lobbying activities related to local, regional, state
386 | and federal governmental affairs, whether incurred by district
387 | staff or through contractual services; and

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388 f. Management and administration.

389 In addition to the program areas reported by all water
390 management districts, the South Florida Water Management District
391 shall include in its budget document separate sections on all
392 costs associated with the Everglades Construction Project and the
393 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, incorporating the
394 amount of state revenues appropriated for the fiscal year.

395 5. The total estimated amount in the district budget for
396 each area of responsibility listed in subparagraph 4. and for
397 water resource, water supply, and alternative water supply
398 development projects identified in the district's regional water
399 supply plans.

400 6. A description of each new, expanded, reduced, or
401 eliminated program.

402 7. The funding sources, including, but not limited to, ad
403 valorem taxes, Surface Water Improvement and Management Program
404 funds, other state funds, federal funds, and user fees and permit
405 fees for each program area.

406 8. The water management district's capital improvement plan
407 for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year, in the same
408 format as required in the preliminary budget.

409 Section 8. Subsection (3) of Section 375.041, Florida
410 Statutes, is amended to read:

411 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

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

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

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418 ~~amounts due with respect to Everglades restoration bonds issued~~
419 ~~under s. 215.619; and~~

420 ~~1(b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required under~~
421 ~~paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated, pledged, or~~
422 ~~dedicated for other uses:~~

423 (a) A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million
424 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that
425 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set
426 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning
427 Project subject to congressional authorization; the Long-Term Plan
428 as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades and
429 Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595. ~~From~~
430 ~~these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal year~~
431 ~~through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida Water~~
432 ~~Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in s.~~
433 ~~373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed under~~
434 ~~this subparagraph, from the funds remaining,~~ A minimum of the
435 lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated each
436 fiscal year ~~through the 2025-2026 fiscal year~~ for the planning,
437 design, engineering, and construction of the Comprehensive
438 Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including
439 the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Everglades Long-Term
440 Plan, the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project,
441 the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, ~~the C-43 West Basin Storage~~
442 ~~Reservoir Project,~~ the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the
443 Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand
444 Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection
445 and the South Florida Water Management District shall give

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446 preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce
447 harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie
448 or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. ~~For the purpose of~~
449 ~~performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the~~
450 ~~amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds~~
451 ~~issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this~~
452 ~~paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments~~
453 ~~required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution~~
454 ~~calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal to the debt~~
455 ~~service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July~~
456 ~~1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this subparagraph.~~

457 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million shall
458 be appropriated annually for spring restoration, protection, and
459 management projects. ~~For the purpose of performing the calculation~~
460 ~~provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid~~
461 ~~pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for~~
462 ~~the purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the~~
463 ~~amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a).~~
464 ~~The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be reduced by~~
465 ~~an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph~~
466 ~~(a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth~~
467 ~~under this subparagraph.~~

468 3. ~~The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually each~~
469 ~~fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St. Johns~~
470 ~~River Water Management District for projects dedicated to the~~
471 ~~restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be reduced by~~
472 ~~an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a)~~

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473 ~~on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth in~~
474 ~~this subparagraph.~~

475 3. Upon appropriation of remaining funding for the CEPP EAA
476 Reservoir Project, the sum of \$8064 million is appropriated and
477 shall be transferred to the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund for the
478 2026-2027 ~~2018-2019~~ fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter,
479 to support the maintenance and capital improvements of everglades
480 restoration projects. ~~for the EAA reservoir project pursuant to s.~~
481 ~~373.4598. Any funds remaining in any fiscal year shall be made~~
482 ~~available only for Phase II of the C-51 reservoir project or~~
483 ~~projects identified in subparagraph 1. and must be used in~~
484 ~~accordance with laws relating to such projects. Any funds made~~
485 ~~available for such purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to~~
486 ~~the amount appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution~~
487 ~~shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid~~
488 ~~pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for~~
489 ~~the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.~~

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

496 6. The sum of \$65100 million shall be appropriated annually
497 to the Department of Environmental Protection for the acquisition
498 of land pursuant to s. 259.105. Prioritization shall be given to
499 conservation easements within the Wildlife Corridor.

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500 ~~7. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 3. and 6., for the 2025-2026~~
501 ~~fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as provided in the General~~
502 ~~Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2026.~~

503 Section 9. Section 380.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to
504 read:

505 380.095 Dedicated funding for land management, natural
506 resource infrastructure, and areas of critical state concern.-

507 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-The Legislature recognizes that
508 historic investments in land conservation have fostered and will
509 continue to foster the preservation of Florida's heritage, allow
510 for the strategic expansion and interconnectivity of the Florida
511 wildlife corridor, and promote the protection of crucial habitat
512 necessary for the survival, protection, and recovery of threatened
513 and endangered native species, including the Florida panther.

514 (a) The Legislature further recognizes that as the state
515 acquires land, the state needs to be a good steward of the land,
516 which necessitates the need for a commitment to provide funding at
517 levels sufficient to ensure the proper management of such lands.

518 (c) The Legislature finds that continued investments in
519 programs intended to strengthen the state's shorelines and
520 tributaries, including the programs outlined in s. 161.161, F.S.
521 and s. 380.093, F.S. are essential to economic competitiveness and
522 quality of life.

523 (d) Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes the need for
524 additional revenue sources to invest in programs that will improve
525 public access to waters of this state and support areas of critical
526 state concern outlined in Chapter 380, F.S.

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527 (e) Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is in the best
528 interest of the residents of the State of Florida to dedicate a
529 portion of revenues from the gaming compact between the Seminole
530 Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida to acquire and manage
531 conservation lands, and to make significant investments in coastal
532 hardening and areas of critical state concern.

533 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—Pursuant to s. 17.71(3)(b), the Department
534 of Financial Services shall distribute up to \$200 million annually
535 as follows unless otherwise reflected in the General
536 Appropriations Act:

537 (a) \$100 million each fiscal year for the management of
538 conservation lands and historic properties held in full fee by the
539 Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the Fish
540 and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the Water Management
541 Districts including for the restoration of uplands and the removal
542 of invasive species. From these funds, amounts shall be applied as
543 follows:

544 i. The lesser of 20 percent or \$20 million to the State Park
545 Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection for
546 state park resource management activities.

547 ii. The lesser of 3 percent or \$3 million to Internal
548 Improvement Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental
549 Protection for land management activities within aquatic preserve
550 system.

551 iii. The lesser of 20 percent or \$20 million to the Internal
552 Improvement Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental
553 Protection to be distributed proportionately by acreage of lands

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554 managed by the five water management districts for land management
555 activities.

556 iv. The lesser of 30 percent or \$30 million to the Incidental
557 Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
558 Services for land management activities.

559 v. The lesser of 23 percent or \$23 million to the State
560 Game Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
561 Commission for land management activities.

562 vi. The lesser of 4 percent or \$4 million to the Grants and
563 Donations Trust Fund within the Department of State for
564 preservation of historic properties.

565 (b) \$50 million each fiscal year to the Resilient Florida
566 Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection to
567 fund mitigation projects outlined in s. 380.093(5). Prioritization
568 shall be given to projects intended to mitigate the impacts of
569 riverine flooding in fiscally constrained counties.

570 (c) \$25 million each fiscal year to the Grants and Donations
571 Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection to
572 support renourishment activities outlined in the comprehensive
573 long-term beach management plan for the restoration and
574 maintenance of the state's critically eroded beaches fronting the
575 Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of America, and Straits of Florida.

576 (d) \$25 million each fiscal year to the Marine Resources
577 Conservation Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
578 Commission to support the restoration of natural oyster or clam
579 reefs. Prioritization shall be given to projects located within or
580 adjacent to Areas of Critical State Concern with proximity to the
581 Gulf of America.

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582 Section 10. Excluding Section 9, this act shall take effect
583 upon becoming law. Section 9 shall take effect if an Act Relating
584 to Indian Gaming Revenue Trust Fund or similar legislation is
585 adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof
586 and become law.