

House Bill No. 1189

An act relating to the Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund; creating s. 373.45952, F.S.; creating the Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection; providing sources of funds and purposes; providing for annual carry-forward of funds; providing for future review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 373.45952, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

373.45952 Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund.—

(1) The Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund is hereby created within the Department of Environmental Protection.

(2) Funds to be credited to the trust fund shall consist of funds appropriated annually by the Legislature and as provided for by general law. Funds shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in s. 373.4595 and for related purposes undertaken pursuant to ss. 373.451-373.459.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of the year and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust fund.

(4) In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State Constitution, the Lake Okeechobee Protection Trust Fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2004. Before its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000, if HB 991 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 16, 2000.