

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1266

An act relating to the Water Management Lands Trust Fund; amending s. 373.59, F.S.; authorizing moneys in the trust fund to be allocated for the purpose of supplementing operational expenditures for specified water management districts; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 373.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.59 Water Management Lands Trust Fund.—

(1) There is established within the Department of Environmental Protection the Water Management Lands Trust Fund to be used as a nonlapsing fund for the purposes of this section. The moneys in this fund are hereby continually appropriated for the purposes of land acquisition, management, maintenance, capital improvements of land titled to the districts, payments in lieu of taxes, debt service on bonds issued prior to July 1, 1999, debt service on bonds issued on or after July 1, 1999, which are issued to refund bonds issued before July 1, 1999, preacquisition costs associated with land purchases, and the department's costs of administration of the fund. The department's costs of administration shall be charged proportionally against each district's allocation using the formula provided in subsection (8). Capital improvements shall include, but need not be limited to, perimeter fencing, signs, firelanes, control of invasive exotic species, controlled burning, habitat inventory and restoration, law enforcement, access roads and trails, and minimal public accommodations, such as primitive campsites, garbage receptacles, and toilets. The moneys in the fund may also be appropriated to supplement operational expenditures at the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District, with such appropriations allocated prior to the allocations set out in subsection (8) to the five water management districts.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2004.