

## House Bill No. 5113-A

An act relating to the Water Management Lands Trust Fund; amending s. 373.59, F.S.; prohibiting the issuance of certain refunding bonds; revising, as of a specified fiscal year, distributions from the trust fund to certain water management districts to include distribution priorities and allocation of specified amounts of such distributions to the General Revenue Fund each fiscal year; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (8) of section 373.59, Florida Statutes, are 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. No refunding bonds may be issued which mature after the final maturity date of the bonds being refunded or which provide for higher debt service in any year than is payable on such bonds as of February 1, 2009. 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.

(8) Moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be allocated as follows ~~to the five water management districts in the following percentages:~~

(a) Through the 2008-2009 fiscal year, thirty percent to the South Florida Water Management District. Beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year, thirty percent shall be used first to pay debt service on bonds issued before February 1, 2009, by the South Florida Water Management District which are secured by revenues provided by this section or to fund debt service

reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with respect to such bonds, then to transfer \$3,000,000 to the credit of the General Revenue Fund in each fiscal year, and lastly to distribute the remainder to the South Florida Water Management District.

(b) Through the 2008-2009 fiscal year, twenty-five percent to the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year, twenty-five percent shall be used first to transfer \$2,500,000 to the credit of the General Revenue Fund in each fiscal year and then to distribute the remainder to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

(c) Through the 2008-2009 fiscal year, twenty-five percent to the St. Johns River Water Management District. Beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year, twenty-five percent shall be used first to pay debt service on bonds issued before February 1, 2009, by the St. Johns River Water Management District which are secured by revenues provided by this section or to fund debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with respect to such bonds, then to transfer \$2,500,000 to the credit of the General Revenue Fund in each fiscal year, and to distribute the remainder to the St. Johns River Water Management District.

(d) Ten percent to the Suwannee River Water Management District.

(e) Ten percent to the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor January 27, 2009.

Filed in Office Secretary of State January 27, 2009.