

CHAPTER 2013-222

Senate Bill No. 1784

An act relating to military installations; amending s. 253.025, F.S.; authorizing the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to acquire certain nonconservation lands to buffer a military installation against encroachment; amending s. 288.980, F.S.; providing legislative findings; providing functions of the Military Base Protection Program; authorizing the Department of Economic Opportunity to annually recommend nonconservation lands for acquisition through fee simple purchase or less-than-fee interest purchase to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for the purpose of preventing the encroachment of military installations; requiring the board of trustees to also consider land acquisition recommendations of the Florida Defense Support Task Force; authorizing funds appropriated to the Military Base Protection Program to be used for land acquisition to prevent or reduce encroachment of military installations; providing a definition for the term “nonconservation lands”; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (18) is added to section 253.025, Florida Statutes, to read:

253.025 Acquisition of state lands for purposes other than preservation, conservation, and recreation.—

(18) The board of trustees may acquire, pursuant to s. 288.980(2)(b), nonconservation lands from the annual list submitted by the Department of Economic Opportunity for the purpose of buffering a military installation against encroachment.

Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 288.980, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.980 Military base retention; legislative intent; grants program.—

(1)(a) It is the intent of this state to provide the necessary means to assist communities with military installations in supporting and sustaining those installations. It is further the intent to encourage communities to initiate a coordinated program of response and plan of action in advance of future actions of the federal government relating to realignments and closures. It is critical that communities develop and implement strategies to preserve and protect military installations. The Legislature hereby recognizes that the state needs to coordinate all efforts that can support military installations throughout the state. The Legislature, therefore, declares that providing such assistance to support the defense-related initiatives within this section is a public purpose for which public money may be used.

(b) The Florida Defense Alliance, an organization within Enterprise Florida, Inc., is designated as the organization to ensure that Florida, its resident military bases and missions, and its military host communities are in competitive positions as the United States continues its defense realignment and downsizing. The defense alliance shall serve as an overall advisory body for defense-related activity of Enterprise Florida, Inc. The Florida Defense Alliance may receive funding from appropriations made for that purpose administered by the department.

(c) The Legislature finds that encroachment of military installations has been identified by local, state, and federal leaders as a critical threat to protecting, preserving, and enhancing military installations in this state. Encroachment can be detrimental to the current and future missions of military installations due to the incompatible use of adjacent land. The Legislature recognizes the unique need to secure lands that have no conservation value, but may present an encroachment threat to a military installation.

(2)(a) The Military Base Protection Program is created. The functions of the Military Base Protection Program includes, but is not limited to:

1. Securing nonconservation lands to serve as a buffer to protect military installations against encroachment; and

2. Supporting local community efforts to engage in service partnerships with military installations.

(b) The department may annually submit a list to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of nonconservation lands to acquire, subject to a specific appropriation, through fee simple purchase or through perpetual, less-than-fee interest purchase, for the purpose of buffering a military installation against encroachment. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund shall also consider the recommendations of the Florida Defense Support Task Force, created in s. 288.987, when selecting nonconservation lands to purchase for the purpose of securing and protecting a military installation against encroachment. This paragraph does not preclude the acquisition of such lands by local governments through fee simple purchase or through perpetual, less-than-fee interest purchase, for the purpose of buffering a military installation against encroachment.

(c) As used in this subsection, the term “nonconservation lands” means lands not subject to acquisition by the Florida Forever Program.

(d) Funds appropriated to this program may be used to address emergent needs relating to mission sustainment, encroachment reduction or prevention, and base retention. All funds appropriated for the purposes of this program are eligible to be used for matching of federal funds. The department shall coordinate and implement this program.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor June 27, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 27, 2013.