

The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment

TITLE:

Water and Land Conservation - Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands

SUMMARY:

Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to support acquisition, restoration, and improvement of conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting significant water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; and historically or geologically significant sites, by dedicating 33 percent of the net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for twenty years.

FULL TEXT:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA THAT:

Article X, Section 28, Florida Constitution, is created to read:

SECTION 28. Land Acquisition Trust Fund.--

- a) Effective on July 1 of the year following passage of this amendment by the voters, and for a period of twenty years after that effective date, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall receive no less than 33 percent of net revenues derived from the excise tax on documents, as defined in the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, after the Department of Revenue first deducts a service charge to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of the excise tax on documents.
- b) Funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall be expended only for the following purposes:
 - 1) As provided by law, to finance or refinance the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; lands that protect significant water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Section 7(b) of Article II; beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; historic, archaeological, or geologic sites; management of lands acquired; together with the restoration of natural systems related thereto; and the enhancement of public access and recreational enjoyment.
 - 2) To pay the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e).
- c) The moneys deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund as defined by statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, shall not be or become commingled with the General Revenue Fund of the state.