

More Public Notice Before Conservation Land Sales and Swaps

[HB 441](#) – Rep. Kim Kendall (SB 546 – Sen. Debbie Mayfield)

General Bill Summary

CS/HB 441 would increase notice and transparency requirements when the state or a water management district considers selling or exchanging conservation land. For proposed sales of state-owned conservation lands, the Division of State Lands would have to post the parcels proposed for sale and a statement explaining why the land is no longer needed for conservation purposes at least 30 days before the Acquisition and Restoration Council or the Board of Trustees reviews the proposal. For proposed exchanges of conservation lands, the bill would require at least one appraisal meeting Board of Trustees criteria and would require advance website posting of the parcels involved, any portions to be protected by permanent conservation easement, an explanation of the conservation benefit to the state, and any applicable recommendations from the division and council. The bill would also require water management district governing boards to post similar information at least 30 days before reviewing a proposed sale or exchange of district-owned conservation land.

The bill passed both chambers unanimously and was ordered enrolled on February 26, 2026. It had not yet become law.

Potential County Impact

The bill does not directly regulate counties, create a county program, or amend county home rule authority. Its operational effects fall primarily on the Division of State Lands, the Acquisition and Restoration Council, the Board of Trustees, and water management districts. Even so, counties could see indirect effects where proposed state or district land disposals affect local conservation planning, flood protection, public access, recreation, or intergovernmental land management discussions. The added 30-day notice and required public posting may give counties more time to review proposals, raise concerns, coordinate with water management districts, or assess local land use and environmental implications before action is taken. For counties that work closely with districts on conservation, resilience, or watershed projects, the bill may modestly improve transparency and advance notice. The House staff analysis states there is no fiscal or economic impact, but counties may still want to monitor whether any local staff time is needed to review posted proposals affecting county interests.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 253.0341, F.S.
- s. 253.42, F.S.
- s. 373.089, F.S.

- s. 215.196, F.S.