

By the Committee on Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs; and Senators Clary and Kurth

316-1870-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to military base retention;  
3           amending s. 288.980, F.S.; providing  
4           legislative intent; providing for the role of  
5           the Florida Defense Alliance; providing  
6           funding; removing a limitation on the amount of  
7           a grant under the Florida Military Installation  
8           Reuse Planning and Marketing Grant Program;  
9           increasing a grant limitation with respect to  
10          the Florida Defense Planning Grant Program;  
11          reducing the amount of matching funds required  
12          under certain grant programs; creating the  
13          Retention of Military Installations Program;  
14          providing eligibility criteria; providing a cap  
15          on the payment of administrative expenses from  
16          certain grants; providing an appropriation;  
17          providing an effective date.

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

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21           Section 1. Section 288.980, Florida Statutes, 1998  
22 Supplement, is amended to read:

23           288.980 Military base retention; legislative intent;  
24 grants program.--

25           (1)(a) It is the intent of this state to provide the  
26 necessary means to assist communities with military  
27 installations that would be adversely affected by federal base  
28 realignment or closure actions. It is further the intent to  
29 encourage communities to initiate a coordinated program of  
30 response and plan of action in advance of future actions of  
31 the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission. It is

1 critical that closure-vulnerable communities develop such a  
2 program to preserve affected military installations. The  
3 Legislature hereby recognizes that the state needs to  
4 coordinate all efforts that can facilitate the retention of  
5 all remaining military installations in the state.The  
6 Legislature, therefore, declares that providing such  
7 assistance to support the defense-related initiatives within  
8 this section is a public purpose for which public money may be  
9 used.

10 (b) The Florida Defense Alliance, an organization  
11 within Enterprise Florida, is designated as the organization  
12 to ensure that Florida, its resident military bases and  
13 missions, and its military host communities are in competitive  
14 positions as the United States continues its defense  
15 realignment and downsizing. The defense alliance shall serve  
16 as an overall advisory body for Enterprise Florida  
17 defense-related activity. The Florida Defense Alliance shall  
18 receive funding from appropriations made for that purpose  
19 administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
20 Development.

21 (2)(a) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
22 Development is authorized to award grants from any funds  
23 available to it to support activities related to the retention  
24 of military installations potentially affected by federal base  
25 closure or realignment.

26 (b) The term "activities" as used in this section  
27 means studies, presentations, analyses, plans, and modeling.  
28 ~~Travel and costs incidental thereto, and Staff salaries, are~~  
29 not considered an "activity" for which grant funds may be  
30 awarded. Travel costs and costs incidental thereto incurred by  
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1 a grant recipient shall be considered an "activity" for which  
2 grant funds may be awarded.

3 (c) Except for grants issued pursuant to the Florida  
4 Military Installation Reuse Planning and Marketing Grant  
5 Program as described in (3)(c), the amount of any grant  
6 provided to an applicant may not exceed \$250,000. The Office  
7 of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall require that  
8 an applicant:

9 1. Represent a local government with a military  
10 installation or military installations that could be adversely  
11 affected by federal base realignment or closure.

12 2. Agree to match at least 30 ~~50~~ percent of any grant  
13 awarded.

14 3. Prepare a coordinated program or plan of action  
15 delineating how the eligible project will be administered and  
16 accomplished.

17 4. Provide documentation describing the potential for  
18 realignment or closure of a military installation located in  
19 the applicant's community and the adverse impacts such  
20 realignment or closure will have on the applicant's community.

21 (d) In making grant awards the office shall consider,  
22 at a minimum, the following factors:

23 1. The relative value of the particular military  
24 installation in terms of its importance to the local and state  
25 economy relative to other military installations vulnerable to  
26 closure.

27 2. The potential job displacement within the local  
28 community should the military installation be closed.

29 3. The potential adverse impact on industries and  
30 technologies which service the military installation.

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1           (3) The Florida Economic Reinvestment Initiative is  
2 established to respond to the need for this state and  
3 defense-dependent communities in this state to develop  
4 alternative economic diversification strategies to lessen  
5 reliance on national defense dollars in the wake of base  
6 closures and reduced federal defense expenditures and the need  
7 to formulate specific base reuse plans and identify any  
8 specific infrastructure needed to facilitate reuse. The  
9 initiative shall consist of the following three distinct grant  
10 programs to be administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade,  
11 and Economic Development:

12           (a) The Florida Defense Planning Grant Program,  
13 through which funds shall be used to analyze the extent to  
14 which the state is dependent on defense dollars and defense  
15 infrastructure and prepare alternative economic development  
16 strategies. The state shall work in conjunction with  
17 defense-dependent communities in developing strategies and  
18 approaches that will help communities make the transition from  
19 a defense economy to a nondefense economy. Grant awards may  
20 not exceed \$250,000~~\$100,000~~ per applicant and shall be  
21 available on a competitive basis.

22           (b) The Florida Defense Implementation Grant Program,  
23 through which funds shall be made available to  
24 defense-dependent communities to implement the diversification  
25 strategies developed pursuant to paragraph (a). Eligible  
26 applicants include defense-dependent counties and cities, and  
27 local economic development councils located within such  
28 communities. Grant awards may not exceed \$100,000 per  
29 applicant and shall be available on a competitive basis.  
30 Awards shall be matched on a one-to-one basis.

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1           (c) The Florida Military Installation Reuse Planning  
2 and Marketing Grant Program, through which funds shall be used  
3 to help counties, cities, and local economic development  
4 councils develop and implement plans for the reuse of closed  
5 or realigned military installations, including any necessary  
6 infrastructure improvements needed to facilitate reuse and  
7 related marketing activities. ~~Grant awards are limited to not~~  
8 ~~more than \$100,000 per eligible applicant and made available~~  
9 ~~through a competitive process. Awards shall be matched on a~~  
10 ~~one-to-one basis.~~

11  
12 Applications for grants under this subsection must include a  
13 coordinated program of work or plan of action delineating how  
14 the eligible project will be administered and accomplished,  
15 which must include a plan for ensuring close cooperation  
16 between civilian and military authorities in the conduct of  
17 the funded activities and a plan for public involvement.

18           (4)(a) The Defense-Related Business Adjustment Program  
19 is hereby created. The Director of the Office of Tourism,  
20 Trade, and Economic Development shall coordinate the  
21 development of the Defense-Related Business Adjustment  
22 Program. Funds shall be available to assist defense-related  
23 companies in the creation of increased commercial technology  
24 development through investments in technology. Such  
25 technology must have a direct impact on critical state needs  
26 for the purpose of generating investment-grade technologies  
27 and encouraging the partnership of the private sector and  
28 government defense-related business adjustment. The following  
29 areas shall receive precedence in consideration for funding  
30 commercial technology development: law enforcement or  
31 corrections, environmental protection, transportation,

1 education, and health care. Travel and costs incidental  
2 thereto, and staff salaries, are not considered an "activity"  
3 for which grant funds may be awarded.

4 (b) The office shall require that an applicant:

5 1. Be a defense-related business that could be  
6 adversely affected by federal base realignment or closure or  
7 reduced defense expenditures.

8 2. Agree to match at least 50 percent of any funds  
9 awarded by the department in cash or in-kind services. Such  
10 match shall be directly related to activities for which the  
11 funds are being sought.

12 3. Prepare a coordinated program or plan delineating  
13 how the funds will be administered.

14 4. Provide documentation describing how  
15 defense-related realignment or closure will adversely impact  
16 defense-related companies.

17 (5) The Retention of Military Installations Program is  
18 created. The Director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
19 Economic Development shall coordinate and implement this  
20 program for military installations located in counties with a  
21 population greater than 824,000. Notwithstanding subsection  
22 (2), the program shall provide up to \$2 million to assist  
23 military installations potentially affected by federal base  
24 closure or realignment in covering current operating costs in  
25 an effort to retain the installation in this state. An  
26 eligible military installation for this program shall include  
27 a provider of simulation solutions for warfighting  
28 experimentation, testing, and training which employs at least  
29 500 civilian and military employees and has been operating in  
30 the state for a period of more than 10 years.

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1           ~~(6)(5)~~ The director may award nonfederal matching  
2 funds specifically appropriated for construction, maintenance,  
3 and analysis of a Florida defense workforce database. Such  
4 funds will be used to create a registry of worker skills that  
5 can be used to match the worker needs of companies that are  
6 relocating to this state or to assist workers in relocating to  
7 other areas within this state where similar or related  
8 employment is available.

9           (7) Payment of administrative expenses shall be  
10 limited to no more than 10 percent of any grants issued  
11 pursuant to this section.

12           ~~(8)(6)~~ The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
13 Development shall establish guidelines to implement and carry  
14 out the purpose and intent of this section.

15           Section 2. There is appropriated from the General  
16 Revenue Fund to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
17 Development the sum of \$20 million to implement the programs  
18 described in section 288.980, Florida Statutes. The \$20  
19 million in funding provided pursuant to this section is  
20 critical in assisting with the improvement or upgrade of  
21 infrastructure (roads, water supply, power grids,  
22 communication nets, etc.) around the state's military bases  
23 which will be measured in the next round of military base  
24 closures. It is the specific intent of the Legislature that a  
25 portion of this appropriation be expended to employ a  
26 consultant to evaluate the infrastructure needs of Florida  
27 military bases in order to provide a baseline and order of  
28 priority for the disbursement of funds. This appropriation is  
29 in addition to any funds currently available for grants to  
30 help local communities.

31           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 1150

Creates the Retention of Military Installations Program to provide up to \$2 million dollars to assist certain military installations within the state that provide war simulation experimentation, testing and training, in covering their operating expenses.