

**STORAGE NAME:** h1015.cu

**DATE:** April 4, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AS FURTHER REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
Colleges & Universities  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1015

**RELATING TO:** Florida Marine Biotechnology and Research

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Minton

**TIED BILL(S):** None

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) WATER AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT YEAS 11 NAYS 0
  - (2) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE YEAS 7 NAYS 0
  - (3) COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
  - (4) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

HB 1015 establishes the Florida Marine Biotechnology Research and Development Program and directs the Program to establish partnerships among research scientists in Florida universities, research laboratories, and the marine biotechnology industry for the purpose of promoting commerce, creating jobs, and benefiting from potential commercial opportunities in Florida. The long term goal of the Program is the creation of products and processes to advance the marine biotechnology industry in Florida which in turn will create new, high-technology businesses, high-paying jobs, and training opportunities.

The program will be jointly administered by the Director of the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Director of the Florida Sea Grant College Program, with the assistance of a steering committee appointed by both directors. The steering committee will consist of representatives from Florida universities, research laboratories, and the marine biotechnology industry. The Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program must make a joint progress report to the Legislature every year the program is funded.

HB 1015 identifies the focus areas of the program, requires that funds be awarded on a competitive basis using a scientific review process, and prescribes the review criteria.

The bill provides for disbursement of funds by the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program. The program is intended to continue for five years with an annual appropriation each year.

The bill limits administrative costs and the expenses of the peer review process.

In addition, HB 1015 calls for an appropriation of \$2,000,000 from general revenue for fiscal year 2000-2001 for implementation of the first year of the program.

HB 1015 does not create new rulemaking authority for the participating entities. It does not appear to raise constitutional or other legal concerns.

HB 1015 takes effect July 1, 2000.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                             |                                         |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Biotechnology is the industrial use of living organisms or biological techniques developed through basic research. Biotechnology encompasses the production of a variety of products from medicines and industrial enzymes to the development of microorganisms for specific uses such as removing toxins from bodies of water or pesticides.

The Florida Sea Grant College Program, located at the University of Florida, is one of 29 state Sea Grant Programs under the National Sea Grant Program. The Sea Grant Program is a partnership between the nation's universities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that began in 1966, when the U.S. Congress passed the National Sea Grant College Program Act. Florida Sea Grant is a state university program that works with and funds projects for all 15 private and public Florida universities and research facilities throughout the state. The Florida Sea Grant Program funded 17 projects in aquaculture, coastal processes, fisheries, and marine biotechnology in 1998.

Over the last four years, marine biotechnology has become a priority area for Florida Sea Grant research funding. The Florida Sea Grant Program is currently funding 11 marine biotechnology projects throughout the state and is receiving \$1,000,000 in federal funding for 1999-2000. The Florida Sea Grant Program is responsible for matching one dollar for every two federal dollars funded.

Current marine biotechnology projects include: the development of methods to improve detection of poor water quality caused by waste contamination in coastal waters; projects to identify and grow microorganisms in the hope of discovering new compounds for pharmacological uses; and research into discodermolide which is a potent anti-tumor compound produced by a microorganism associated with sponges that shows great promise as an anticancer agent.

The Florida Marine Research Institute is an administrative unit of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The mission of the Institute is to: (1) Serve as the primary source of research and technical information and expertise on the status of Florida's saltwater resources; (2) Monitor the status and health of saltwater habitat, marine life, and wildlife; (3) Develop and implement restoration techniques for marine habitat and enhancement of saltwater plant and animal populations; (4) Respond and provide critical technical support for marine catastrophes including oil spills, ship groundings, major marine

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species die-offs, hazardous spills, and natural disaster; (5) Identify and monitor marine toxic red tides and their impacts, and provide technical support for state and local public health concerns; and (6) Provide state and local governments with estuarine, marine, coastal technical information and research results.

The provisions of s. 287.057, F.S., require that, unless otherwise authorized by law, all contracts for the purchase of commodities or contractual services in excess of the threshold amount provided in s. 287.017, F.S., for CATEGORY TWO shall be awarded by competitive sealed bidding. The threshold amount for CATEGORY TWO is \$25,000.

**C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

HB 1015 establishes the Florida Marine Biotechnology Research and Development Program to create partnerships among the Florida universities, research laboratories, and marine biotechnology industry.

The goal of the program will be to advance the marine biotechnology industry in Florida. Advancement of the industry will promote clean, high-technology businesses, will create jobs in Florida, and will keep Florida-trained students working in state.

State funds appropriated to the program will help match federal funds from the National Sea Grant Program to increase the money available to enhance the marine biotechnology industry in Florida. The program is to be funded for five years at which time the program should be self-sufficient.

**D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:**

Section 1: Establishes the Florida Marine Biotechnology Research and Development Program to create partnerships among research scientists in Florida universities, research laboratories and the marine biotechnology industry. The establishment of these partnerships shall serve to promote commerce, create jobs and potential commercial opportunities in Florida.

Provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Director of the Florida Sea Grant College Program, with input from a steering committee. The steering committee will be appointed by both directors and must include a member from each of the following: University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Florida State University, University of South Florida, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., Mote Marine Laboratory, Florida Marine Research Institute, and BIO+Florida.

Specifies the focus areas of the program: aquaculture, marine animal health, marine natural products, biofilm/bioadhesion, bioremediation, and marine ecology.

Provides for funds to be awarded based on competition among all the state universities, public research laboratories, and private nonprofit research laboratories in the state of Florida. Upon submission of proposals, selection must be made as determined by a scientific peer review process based on the following criteria: project rationale, scientific merit, potential applications, industrial sponsorship, and investigator qualifications. The program is intended to run for five years with each project being funded over a 30-month period.

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The Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program will disburse all funds. Funds awarded to projects within the Florida Marine Research Institute will be distributed directly to the institute and funds awarded to universities and research laboratories will be transferred by the Florida Marine Research Institute by contract through the Florida Sea Grant College Program.

Promotes public and private partnerships in all projects. Limits the funds that can be used by the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program for technical administration of the program to no more than \$25,000 each of each annual appropriation. Limits the funds that can be used by the Florida Sea Grant College Program for the expenses of the peer review process to \$16,000 of each annual appropriation.

Specifies the long-term goal of the program to be the creation of products and processes that will advance the marine biotechnology industry in Florida. This bill provides that this industry will create new, clean, high technology businesses; will provide high paying jobs' and will create training opportunities that will keep Florida-trained students in Florida.

Provides that contractual services procured under this bill are not subject to the provisions of s. 287.057, Florida Statutes.

Section 2: Provides for an appropriation of \$2 million for fiscal year 2000-2001 from the General Revenue fund to the Florida Marine Research Institute for the implementation of the first year of the program.

Section 3: Specifies this act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

### III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Expenditures:

HB 1015 provides an appropriation of \$2 million from the General Revenue Fund for fiscal year 2000-2001 for implementation of the first year of the program.

#### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

See Fiscal Comments.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

There is an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and local government revenues due to success of the program. The bill is designed to promote commerce and create jobs, which may create unknown revenues for state and local government.

The Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College program are allocated no more than \$25,000 each of each annual appropriation for administration of the program, and the Florida Sea Grant College Program may use up to \$16,000 of each annual appropriation for expenses of the peer review process.

Proponents of the bill are recommending an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for each of the five years of the program.

Additional funding provisions stipulate that any projects initiated using funds appropriated for this act must spend each annual appropriation over a 30-month period. This provision may be in conflict with s. 216.301, F.S., relating to undisbursed balances of appropriations.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

HB 1015 does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds, nor does it require them to take an action requiring the expenditures of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

HB 1015 does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

HB 1015 does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

HB 1015 does not raise any constitutional issues.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

HB 1015 neither expands nor restricts the rule-making authority of the state or local agencies.

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C. OTHER COMMENTS:

An amendment to add the University of Miami as a member of the steering committee is expected to be filed.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Prepared by:

Jason A. Heffley

Staff Director:

Joyce Pugh

AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

Prepared by:

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AS FURTHER REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

Prepared by:

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