

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and
 Representatives Minton, Waters, Rojas and J. Miller

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to marine biotechnology
 3 research and industry development; establishing
 4 the Florida Marine Biotechnology Research and
 5 Development Program; providing purpose;
 6 providing for program administration; requiring
 7 an annual report; providing for program focus
 8 areas; providing for award of funds to projects
 9 on a competitive basis; providing for annual
 10 appropriations for a specified period; limiting
 11 administrative expenses; providing long-term
 12 goal of the program; providing an
 13 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Florida Marine Biotechnology Research and
 18 Development Program.--

19 (1) There is established a Florida Marine
 20 Biotechnology Research and Development Program. The program
 21 shall establish partnerships among research scientists in
 22 Florida universities and research laboratories and the marine
 23 biotechnology industry for the purpose of promoting commerce,
 24 creating jobs, and benefiting from potential commercial
 25 opportunities in Florida. The Director of the Florida Marine
 26 Research Institute and the Director of the Florida Sea Grant
 27 College Program shall jointly administer the program, with
 28 input from a steering committee appointed by both directors.
 29 The steering committee shall include a member from each of the
 30 following: University of Florida, Florida Atlantic
 31 University, Florida State University, University of South

1 Florida, Nova Southeastern University, University of Miami,
2 University of West Florida, Harbor Branch Oceanographic
3 Institution, Inc., Mote Marine Laboratory, Florida Marine
4 Research Institute, and BIO+Florida. The steering committee
5 shall determine the research priorities that shall be used to
6 request project proposals to be selected and funded using
7 funds as provided in this act. The Florida Marine Research
8 Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program shall make
9 a joint report to the Legislature on the progress of the
10 program by July 1 of each year that the program is funded.

11 (2) The Florida Marine Biotechnology Research and
12 Development Program shall focus on the following
13 areas: aquaculture, marine animal health, marine natural
14 products, biofilm/bioadhesion, bioremediation, and marine
15 ecology.

16 (3)(a) Funds appropriated for this program shall be
17 awarded to projects based on competition as determined by a
18 scientific peer review process, which may include the advice
19 of a nationwide panel of experts. Review criteria shall
20 include project rationale, scientific merit, potential
21 applications, industrial sponsorship, and investigator
22 qualifications. All universities, public research
23 laboratories, and private nonprofit research laboratories in
24 Florida shall be eligible to compete for funding based on the
25 submission of proposals and selection by the competitive
26 process. The program is intended to continue for a total of 5
27 years, with an annual appropriation each year. Projects
28 initiated using funds under this act shall require that the
29 annual appropriations be spent over a 30-month period.

30 (b) The Florida Marine Research Institute and the
31 Florida Sea Grant College Program shall disburse all funds on

1 a competitive basis. Projects funded within the Florida Marine
2 Research Institute shall receive funds appropriated under this
3 act directly from the institute. Funds awarded to universities
4 and private nonprofit research laboratories shall be
5 transferred by the Florida Marine Research Institute by
6 contract through the Florida Sea Grant College Program.

7 (c) All projects should promote public and private
8 partnerships where possible. The Florida Marine Research
9 Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program shall use
10 no more than \$25,000 each of each annual appropriation for
11 technical administration of the program. Up to \$16,000 of each
12 annual appropriation may be used by the Florida Sea Grant
13 College Program for the expenses of the peer review process
14 and technical panel.

15 (4) The long-term goal of the program shall be the
16 creation of products and processes that will advance the
17 marine biotechnology industry in Florida, which industry will
18 create new, clean, high-technology businesses, will provide
19 high-paying jobs, and will create training opportunities that
20 will keep Florida-trained students in Florida.

21 (5) Contractual services procured under this section
22 are not subject to the provisions of s. 287.057, Florida
23 Statutes.

24 Section 2. There is hereby appropriated from the
25 General Revenue fund to the Florida Marine Research Institute
26 for fiscal year 2000-2001 the sum of \$2 million for
27 implementation of the first year of the program described in
28 this act.

29 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.
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