

By the Committee on Commerce and Economic Opportunities; and  
Senator Kirkpatrick

310-2131A-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the space industry; amending  
3           s. 331.368, F.S.; expanding the purpose of the  
4           Florida Space Research Institute; revising the  
5           membership of the institute; prescribing  
6           additional duties of the institute; creating  
7           the Space Industry Workforce Initiative;  
8           requiring the Workforce Development Board of  
9           Enterprise Florida, Inc., to develop  
10          initiatives to address the workforce needs of  
11          the industry; prescribing criteria; requiring  
12          the board to convene industry representatives;  
13          requiring a report; creating s. 331.3685, F.S.;  
14          creating the Florida Space-Industry  
15          Research-Development Program to finance  
16          space-related research projects and programs;  
17          providing for certain sales-tax collections to  
18          be distributed to the Florida Space Research  
19          Institute; prescribing uses of such funds;  
20          requiring an annual accounting of such funds;  
21          providing for review of funding proposals by  
22          the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
23          Development; requiring a contract with the  
24          office governing distribution of funds under  
25          the program; amending s. 212.20, F.S.;  
26          providing for sales-tax collections from the  
27          Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex to be  
28          distributed to the Florida Space Research  
29          Institute; providing an effective date.

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

1           Section 1. Section 331.368, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3           331.368 Florida Space Research Institute.--

4           (1) There is created the Florida Space Research  
5 Institute, the purpose of which is to serve as an  
6 industry-driven center for research, leveraging the state's  
7 resources in a collaborative effort to support Florida's space  
8 industry and its expansion, diversification, and transition to  
9 commercialization.

10           (2) The institute shall operate as a public/private  
11 partnership under the direction of a board composed ~~comprised~~  
12 of:

13           (a) A representative of the Spaceport Florida  
14 Authority.

15           (b) A representative of Enterprise Florida, Inc.

16           (c) A representative of the Florida Aviation Aerospace  
17 Alliance.

18           (d) A representative of the Florida Space Business  
19 Roundtable.

20           (e) Additional private-sector representatives from the  
21 space industry selected collaboratively by the core members  
22 specified in paragraphs (a)-(d). The additional space industry  
23 representatives under this paragraph must comprise the  
24 majority of members of the board and must be from geographic  
25 regions throughout the state.

26           (f) Two representatives from the educational community  
27 who are selected collaboratively by the core members specified  
28 in paragraphs (a)-(d) and who are engaged in research or  
29 instruction related to the space industry. One representative  
30 must be from a community college and one representative must  
31 be from a public or private university.

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2 Annually, the members of the board shall select one of the  
3 members to serve as chair, who shall be responsible for  
4 convening and leading meetings of the board.~~representatives~~  
5 ~~of the Spaceport Florida Authority, Enterprise Florida, Inc.,~~  
6 ~~the Florida Aviation and Aerospace Alliance, and four~~  
7 ~~additional space industry representatives selected by the core~~  
8 ~~membership of the board.~~

9 (3) The board of the Florida Space Research Institute  
10 shall:

11 (a) Set the strategic direction for the space-related  
12 ~~institute, including~~ research priorities of the state and its  
13 space-related businesses, the scope of research projects for  
14 the institute, and the timeframes for completion.

15 (b) Invite the participation of public and private  
16 universities, including, but not limited to, the University of  
17 Central Florida, the University of Florida, the University of  
18 South Florida, Florida State University, Florida Institute of  
19 Technology, and the University of Miami.

20 (c) Select a lead university to:

21 1. Serve as coordinator of research and as the  
22 administrative entity of the institute;

23 2. Support the institute's development of a statewide  
24 space research agenda and programs; and

25 3. Develop, and update as necessary, a report  
26 recommending ways that the state's public and private  
27 universities can work in partnership to support the state's  
28 space-industry requirements, which report must be completed by  
29 December 15, 2000.

30 (d) Establish a partnership with the state Workforce  
31 Development Board, or its successor entity, under which the

1 institute coordinates the workforce-training requirements  
2 identified by the space industry and supports development of  
3 workforce-training initiatives to meet such requirements,  
4 using training providers approved by the board or its  
5 successor entity.

6 (e) Co-manage, with the National Aeronautics and Space  
7 Administration, operation of a Space Experiment Research and  
8 Processing Laboratory, if such a facility is constructed on  
9 land of the John F. Kennedy Space Center. The institute shall  
10 use a consortium of public and private universities, under the  
11 direction of the lead university designated under paragraph  
12 (c), to carry out such responsibilities for co-managing the  
13 laboratory. Subject to agreement with the National Aeronautics  
14 and Space Administration, the institute shall coordinate  
15 access for public and private universities to the laboratory  
16 and shall coordinate access for the administration to the  
17 off-site resources of such universities.

18 (f) Develop initiatives to foster the participation of  
19 the state's space industry in the International Space Station  
20 and to help the state maintain and enhance its competitive  
21 position in the commercial space-transportation industry.

22 (g) Pursue partnerships with the National Aeronautics  
23 and Space Administration to coordinate and conduct research in  
24 fields, including, but not limited to, environmental  
25 monitoring; agriculture; aquatics; resource reutilization  
26 technologies for long-duration space missions; and spaceport  
27 technologies such as next-generation launches and range  
28 systems.

29 (h) Pursue partnerships with the National Aeronautics  
30 and Space Administration and the John F. Kennedy Space Center  
31 for the conduct of space-related research using computer

1 technology to connect experts in a given field of science who  
2 are in disparate locations and to perform research experiments  
3 in a real-time, virtual environment.

4 (4) By December 15 ~~±~~ of each year, the institute shall  
5 submit a report of its activities and accomplishments for the  
6 ~~prior fiscal~~ year to the Governor, the President of the  
7 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The  
8 report shall also include recommendations regarding actions  
9 the state should take to enhance the development of  
10 space-related businesses, including:

11 (a) Future research activities.

12 (b) The development of capital and technology  
13 assistance to new and expanding industries.

14 (c) The removal of regulatory impediments.

15 (d) The establishment of business development  
16 incentives.

17 (e) The initiation of education and training programs  
18 to ensure a skilled workforce.

19 Section 2. Space Industry Workforce Initiative.--

20 (1) The Legislature finds that the space industry is  
21 critical to the economic future of the state and that the  
22 competitiveness of the industry in the state depends upon the  
23 development and maintenance of a qualified workforce. The  
24 Legislature further finds that the space industry in this  
25 state has diverse and complex workforce needs, including, but  
26 not limited to, the need for qualified entry-level workers,  
27 the need to upgrade the skills of technician-level incumbent  
28 workers, and the need to ensure continuing education  
29 opportunities for workers with advanced educational degrees.  
30 It is the intent of the Legislature to support programs  
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1 designed to address the workforce development needs of the  
2 space industry in this state.

3 (2) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise  
4 Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, shall coordinate  
5 development of a Space Industry Workforce Initiative in  
6 partnership with the Florida Space Research Institute, the  
7 institute's consortium of public and private universities,  
8 community colleges, and other training providers approved by  
9 the board. The purpose of the initiative is to use or revise  
10 existing programs and to develop innovative new programs to  
11 address the workforce needs of the space industry.

12 (3) The initiative shall emphasize:

13 (a) Curricula content and timeframes developed with  
14 industry participation and endorsed by the industry;

15 (b) Programs that certify persons completing training  
16 as meeting industry-approved standards or competencies;

17 (c) Use of distance-learning and computer-based  
18 training modules as appropriate and feasible;

19 (d) Industry solicitation of public and private  
20 universities to develop continuing education programs at the  
21 master's and doctoral levels;

22 (e) Agreements with the National Aeronautics and Space  
23 Administration to replicate on a national level successful  
24 training programs developed through the initiative; and

25 (f) Leveraging of state and federal workforce funds.

26 (4) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise  
27 Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, with the assistance of  
28 the Florida Space Research Institute, shall convene  
29 representatives from the space industry to identify the  
30 priority training and education needs of the industry and to  
31 appoint a team to design programs to meet such priority needs.

1           (5) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise  
2 Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, as part of its  
3 statutorily prescribed annual report to the Legislature, shall  
4 provide recommendations for policies, programs, and funding to  
5 enhance the workforce needs of the space industry.

6           Section 3. Section 331.3685, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           331.3685 Florida Space-Industry Research-Development  
9 Program.--

10           (1) There is created the Florida Space-Industry  
11 Research-Development Program within the Florida Space Research  
12 Institute to finance space-industry research and other support  
13 projects and programs that will improve the statewide  
14 development of space-related economic and academic  
15 opportunities.

16           (2) State taxes imposed pursuant to chapter 212 which  
17 are collected at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex  
18 shall be distributed to the Florida Space Research Institute  
19 as provided by s. 212.20(6)(f) and shall be used to fund the  
20 Florida Space-Industry Research-Development Program. Such  
21 funds shall be distributed quarterly by the Department of  
22 Revenue to the Florida Space Research Institute. The institute  
23 shall place all of such funds in a segregated account, and the  
24 account and its activity shall be subject to an annual audit.  
25 As part of the annual report under s. 331.368(4), the  
26 institute shall submit a complete accounting each year of  
27 funds distributed and expended under this program. Any funds  
28 distributed in a given fiscal year that are not obligated by  
29 the end of that fiscal year shall revert to the General  
30 Revenue Fund.

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1           (3) Program funds shall be used to support activities  
2 authorized under s. 331.368. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
3 Economic Development shall review and certify funding  
4 proposals for consistency with s. 331.368 and this section.

5           (4) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
6 Development shall execute a contract with the Florida Space  
7 Research Institute governing the distribution of funds under  
8 s. 212.20(6)(f). The contract shall prescribe guidelines and  
9 procedures governing the use of, and accountability for, such  
10 funds.

11           Section 4. Present paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of  
12 section 212.20, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph  
13 (g), and a new paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, to  
14 read:

15           212.20 Funds collected, disposition; additional powers  
16 of department; operational expense; refund of taxes  
17 adjudicated unconstitutionally collected.--

18           (6) Distribution of all proceeds under this chapter  
19 shall be as follows:

20           (f) Proceeds from the state taxes imposed pursuant to  
21 this chapter which are collected at the Kennedy Space Center  
22 Visitor Complex shall be distributed quarterly by the  
23 department to the Florida Space Research Institute, through  
24 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, for  
25 use as provided in ss. 331.365 and 331.368.

26           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.  
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 1210

This committee substitute differs from Senate Bill 1210 by:

- revising the membership of the Florida Space Research Institute (institute), to add a representative from the Florida Space Business Roundtable, and to add two representatives from the academic community;
- directing the Workforce Development Board to partner with the institute for the establishment of a Space Industry Workforce Initiative to develop innovative programs to address the diverse workforce needs of the space industry;
- redirecting sales taxes from the Kennedy Space Center to the institute for the Florida Space Industry Research Development Program to finance space industry research and other support projects and programs; and
- expanding responsibilities of the institute to include: partnering with the state Workforce Development Board to address the training needs of the space industry; co-managing the Space Experiment Research and Processing Laboratory; fostering the participation of the space industry in the International Space Station; and partnering with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on research projects in specified fields and on the use of computer technology to conduct experiments in a virtual environment.