

By Senator Kurth

15-402-00

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 for program  
6           focus; providing legislative intent; providing  
7           long-term goals; providing an appropriation;  
8           providing an effective date.

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

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12           Section 1. There is established a Florida Marine  
13 Biotechnology Research and Development Program. The program  
14 will establish partnerships among research scientists in  
15 Florida universities and research laboratories and the marine  
16 biotechnology industry for the purpose of promoting commerce,  
17 creating jobs, and benefiting from potential commercial  
18 opportunities in the state. The Director of the Florida Marine  
19 Research Institute and the Director of the Florida Sea Grant  
20 College Program will jointly administer the program with input  
21 from a steering committee appointed by both directors. The  
22 steering committee shall have a member from each of the  
23 following: the University of Florida, Florida Atlantic  
24 University, Florida State University, the University of South  
25 Florida, the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Mote  
26 Marine Laboratory, the Florida Marine Research Institute, and  
27 BIO+Florida. The steering committee shall determine research  
28 priorities that will be used in requesting project proposals  
29 that are selected and funded using funds as provided in this  
30 act. The Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea  
31 Grant College Program shall make a joint report to the

1 Legislature on program progress by July 1 of each year that  
2 the program is being funded.

3 Section 2. The Florida Marine Biotechnology Research  
4 and Development Program shall focus in the following areas:

- 5 (1) Aquaculture;  
6 (2) Marine animal health;  
7 (3) Marine natural products;  
8 (4) Biofilm/bioadhesion;  
9 (5) Bioremediation; and  
10 (6) Marine ecology.

11 Section 3. Funds appropriated for this program must be  
12 awarded to projects based on competition as determined by a  
13 scientific peer review process, which may include the advice  
14 of a nationwide panel of experts. Review criteria will include  
15 project rationale, scientific merit, potential applications,  
16 industrial sponsorship, and investigator qualifications. All  
17 universities, public research laboratories, and private  
18 nonprofit research laboratories in the state are eligible to  
19 compete for funding based on the submission of proposals and  
20 selection by the competitive process. There is appropriated  
21 from the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Marine Research  
22 Institute for fiscal year 2000-2001 a sum of \$2,000,000 for  
23 the first year of the program. The intent of the Legislature  
24 is that the program continue for a total of 5 years, with an  
25 annual appropriation each year. Projects started using funds  
26 under this act will require that the annual appropriations be  
27 spent over a 30-month period. The Florida Marine Research  
28 Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program will  
29 disburse all funds on a competitive basis. Projects funded  
30 within the Florida Marine Research Institute shall receive  
31 funds directly from the institute from this appropriation.

