Florida Senate - 2000

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
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1 Legislature on program progress by July 1 of each year that the program is being funded. 2 3 Section 2. The Florida Marine Biotechnology Research 4 and Development Program shall focus in the following areas: 5 Aquaculture; (1) б (2) Marine animal health; 7 Marine natural products; (3) Biofilm/bioadhesion; 8 (4) 9 (5) Bioremediation; and 10 (6) Marine ecology. 11 Section 3. Funds appropriated for this program must be awarded to projects based on competition as determined by a 12 scientific peer review process, which may include the advice 13 of a nationwide panel of experts. Review criteria will include 14 project rationale, scientific merit, potential applications, 15 industrial sponsorship, and investigator qualifications. All 16 17 universities, public research laboratories, and private nonprofit research laboratories in the state are eligible to 18 19 compete for funding based on the submission of proposals and 20 selection by the competitive process. There is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Marine Research 21 Institute for fiscal year 2000-2001 a sum of \$2,000,000 for 22 the first year of the program. The intent of the Legislature 23 24 is that the program continue for a total of 5 years, with an 25 annual appropriation each year. Projects started using funds under this act will require that the annual appropriations be 26 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 within the Florida Marine Research Institute shall receive 30 31 funds directly from the institute from this appropriation.

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1 Funds awarded to universities and private nonprofit research laboratories will be transferred by the Florida Marine 2 3 Research Institute by contract through the Florida Sea Grant 4 College Program. All projects should promote public and 5 private partnerships when possible. No more than \$25,000 each 6 may be used by the Florida Marine Research Institute and the 7 Florida Sea Grant College Program for technical administration of this program. Up to \$16,000 may be used by the Florida Sea 8 Grant College Program for the expenses of the peer review and 9 10 technical panel expenses. Section 4. The long-term goal of the program is the 11 creation of products and processes that will advance the 12 marine biotechnology industry in the state. This industry will 13 create new, clean, high technology businesses, will provide 14 15 high paying jobs, and will create training opportunities that will keep Florida-trained students in the state. 16 17 Section 5. Contractual services procured under this act are not subject to section 287.057, Florida Statutes. 18 19 Section 6. Rules are not required for the implementation of this act. 20 This act shall take effect July 1, 2000. 21 Section 7. 22 23 24 SENATE SUMMARY Creates the Florida Marine Biotechnology Research and Development Program, to be administered by the Director 25 of the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Director of the Florida Sea Grant College Program. Provides an 26 27 appropriation to fund research projects on a competitive basis. 28 29 30 31 3

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