

By Representative Baker

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to small aircraft  
3           transportation; providing legislative intent  
4           with respect to NASA's Small Aircraft  
5           Transportation System; providing an  
6           appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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10           Section 1. Small Aircraft Transportation System;  
11 legislative intent.--

12           (1) The Legislature recognizes that the State of  
13 Florida has an opportunity to participate with the National  
14 Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation  
15 Administration, the aircraft industry, and various  
16 universities as partners to provide Florida with improved  
17 transportation access and mobility for all of its communities,  
18 rural and urban alike, by participating in NASA's Small  
19 Aircraft Transportation System. The Legislature recognizes  
20 that state support can be leveraged with current federal and  
21 industry resources to provide an infrastructure that utilizes  
22 the state's network of 129 public-use airports and provides a  
23 transportation system capable of competing with the automobile  
24 in both convenience and affordability.

25           (2) The Legislature hereby expresses its commitment,  
26 through participation in the Small Aircraft Transportation  
27 System, to:

28           (a) Improve travel choices, mobility, and  
29 accessibility for the citizens of the state.  
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1       (b) Enhance economic growth and competitiveness for  
2 the rural and remote communities of the state through improved  
3 transportation choices.

4       (c) Maintain the state's leadership and proactive role  
5 in aviation and aerospace through active involvement in  
6 advancing aviation technology infrastructure and capabilities.

7       (d) Take advantage of federal programs that can bring  
8 investments in technology, research, and infrastructure  
9 capable of enhancing competitiveness and opportunities for  
10 industry and workforce development.

11       (e) Participate in opportunities that can place the  
12 state's industries and communities in a first-to-market  
13 advantage when developing, implementing, and proving new  
14 technologies which have the potential to satisfy requirements  
15 for the public good.

16       (f) Participate as partners with the National  
17 Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation  
18 Administration, the aircraft industry, local governments, and  
19 those universities which comprise the Southeast SATSLab  
20 Consortium to implement a Small Aircraft Transportation System  
21 infrastructure as a statewide network of airports to support  
22 the commitments described in paragraphs (a)-(e).

23       Section 2. There is hereby appropriated from the  
24 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Transportation the  
25 sum of \$3,329,500 for the purpose of providing funds to be  
26 utilized with federal and industry funds in purchasing the  
27 high-technology electronic airport infrastructure used to  
28 develop a network of 10 airports statewide for Small Aircraft  
29 Transportation System experiments beginning in 2003. These  
30 funds shall also be used to help establish an operations  
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1 command center that shall be used to coordinate all flying and  
2 operational activities undertaken pursuant to this act.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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6 HOUSE SUMMARY

7 Expresses the intent of the Legislature to participate in  
8 NASA's Small Aircraft Transportation System. Provides an  
9 appropriation of \$3,329,500 to the Department of  
Transportation. See bill for details.

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