

By the Committee on Natural Resources & Environmental  
Protection and Representative Detert

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to marine biotechnology  
3           research, training, and industry development;  
4           establishing the Florida Marine Biotechnology  
5           Research, Training, and Development Program;  
6           providing legislative intent; providing program  
7           focus and long-term goals; providing for  
8           administration of the program; requiring  
9           appointment of a steering committee; providing  
10          duties of the steering committee; providing an  
11          appropriation; providing for disbursement of  
12          funds; providing an exemption regarding  
13          contractual services; requiring an annual  
14          report to the Legislature; providing for rules;  
15          providing for future repeal; providing an  
16          effective date.

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

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20           Section 1. (1) There is hereby established the  
21 Florida Marine Biotechnology Research, Training, and  
22 Development Program, which will foster, establish, and enhance  
23 partnerships among research scientists in Florida universities  
24 and research laboratories and the marine biotechnology  
25 industry for the purpose of promoting commerce, creating jobs,  
26 and benefiting from potential commercial opportunities in  
27 Florida.

28           (2) The Florida Marine Biotechnology Research,  
29 Training, and Development Program will support research using  
30 modern techniques of cell and molecular biology in the  
31 following areas:

1           (a) Aquaculture, focusing on cell and molecular  
2 techniques to improve size, growth rate, disease resistance,  
3 survivability, and reproductive yields of aquacultured  
4 organisms.

5           (b) Marine animal health, focusing on marine  
6 pathogens, diagnostics, treatments, drug delivery systems, and  
7 immunology, physiology, and pharmacology of both wild and  
8 cultured marine animals.

9           (c) Marine bioproducts, focusing on the discovery of  
10 drugs, bioadhesives, biominerals, and other economically  
11 important products, the development of new models and screens  
12 for product discovery, the identification of new drug targets  
13 and mechanisms-of-action of marine-derived drugs, the  
14 development of sustainable production methods for marine  
15 bioproducts, and the development of novel methods for marine  
16 byproduct utilization.

17           (d) Coastal human health risks, focusing on the  
18 development of new diagnostic tools to assess seafood  
19 pathogens and waterborne pathogens and pollutants.

20           (e) Coastal habitat restoration, focusing on  
21 remediation, and molecular and cellular approaches to strain  
22 improvement, hybrid development, and production technology for  
23 submerged and coastal aquatic vegetation.

24           (f) Forensics and monitoring, focusing on bioforensics  
25 for identification of threatened and endangered species,  
26 seafood identification, evaluation of health risks, and  
27 regulatory issues as related to economic fraud, and the  
28 development of new biosensors.

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30 The long-term goal of the program shall be the creation of  
31 products and processes that will advance the marine

1 biotechnology industry in Florida. This industry will create  
2 new, clean, high-technology businesses, provide high-paying  
3 jobs, and create employment opportunities that will keep  
4 Florida-trained students in Florida.

5 (3) The director of the Florida Marine Research  
6 Institute and the director of the Florida Sea Grant College  
7 Program shall jointly administer the program with input from a  
8 steering committee appointed jointly by both directors. The  
9 directors of the Florida Marine Research Institute and the  
10 Florida Sea Grant College Program shall jointly make final  
11 project funding decisions.

12 (4) The steering committee shall be composed of one  
13 member from each of the following: the University of Florida,  
14 Florida Atlantic University, Florida State University, the  
15 University of South Florida, the University of West Florida,  
16 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the University  
17 of Miami, Nova Southeastern University, the Harbor Branch  
18 Oceanographic Institution, the Mote Marine Laboratory, the  
19 Florida Marine Research Institute, and BIOFlorida. The  
20 steering committee shall:

21 (a) Determine the research priorities that shall be  
22 used to request project proposals.

23 (b) Determine the criteria used to select and fund  
24 projects, which must include project rationale, scientific  
25 merit, potential applications, industrial sponsorship,  
26 investigator qualifications, potential for partnerships, and  
27 plans for technology transfer to industry and the public  
28 sector.

29 (c) Identify a scientific review committee to evaluate  
30 and recommend projects for funding.

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1       (d) Make recommendations to the directors of the  
2 Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea Grant  
3 College Program for projects to be funded based upon the  
4 recommendations of the scientific review committee.

5       (5)(a) Funds appropriated for this program shall be  
6 awarded to projects based on competition as determined by a  
7 scientific peer review process, which may include the advice  
8 of a nationwide panel of technical experts. All universities,  
9 public research laboratories, and private nonprofit research  
10 laboratories in Florida shall be eligible to compete for  
11 funding based on the submission of proposals and selection by  
12 the competitive process. Projects that receive funding should  
13 promote public and private partnerships when possible.

14       (b) There is hereby appropriated from the General  
15 Revenue Fund to the Florida Marine Research Institute for  
16 fiscal year 2001-2002 a sum of \$2 million for the first year  
17 of the program.

18       (c) Funds awarded to a project under this act shall be  
19 spent over a period not to exceed 42 months for each project  
20 and activity of the program. The Florida Marine Research  
21 Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program shall  
22 disburse all funds based on the competitive process defined by  
23 this act and the steering committee. Projects funded within  
24 the Florida Marine Research Institute shall receive funds  
25 directly from the institute from this appropriation. Funds  
26 awarded to universities and private nonprofit research  
27 laboratories will be transferred by the Florida Marine  
28 Research Institute by contract through the Florida Sea Grant  
29 College Program. No more than \$25,000 each shall be used by  
30 the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea  
31 Grant College Program for technical administration of this

1 program. Up to \$16,000 may be used by the Florida Sea Grant  
2 College Program for the expenses of the peer review and  
3 technical panel expenses.

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

7 (7) The directors of the Florida Marine Research  
8 Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program shall  
9 provide a joint report to the Legislature on program progress  
10 by July 1 of each year the program is funded.

11 (8) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
12 shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to  
13 implement the provisions of this act. The rules, at a  
14 minimum, must address the solicitation of proposals, award of  
15 grants, monitoring of grants, and dispute resolution.

16 (9) This act shall be repealed on July 1, 2006, unless  
17 otherwise reenacted by the Legislature.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.  
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