

By Senator Carlton

24-200-01

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

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

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13           Section 1. There is established a Florida Marine  
14 Biotechnology Research, Training, and Development Program. The  
15 program will foster, establish, and enhance partnerships among  
16 research scientists in Florida universities and research  
17 laboratories and the marine biotechnology industry for the  
18 purpose of promoting commerce, creating jobs, and benefiting  
19 from potential commercial opportunities in the state. The  
20 Director of the Florida Marine Research Institute and the  
21 Director of the Florida Sea Grant College Program will jointly  
22 administer the program with input from a steering committee  
23 appointed jointly by both directors. The steering committee  
24 shall have a member from the University of Florida, Florida  
25 Atlantic University, Florida State University, the University  
26 of South Florida, the University of West Florida, Florida A&M  
27 University, the University of Miami, Nova Southeastern  
28 University, the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Mote  
29 Marine Laboratory, the Florida Marine Research Institute, and  
30 BIOFlorida. The steering committee shall determine the  
31 research priorities that will be used in requesting project

1 proposals, shall determine the criteria used to select and  
2 fund projects using funds as provided in this act, shall  
3 identify a scientific review committee to evaluate and  
4 recommend projects for funding, and shall make recommendations  
5 to the Directors of the Florida Sea Grant College Program and  
6 the Florida Marine Research Institute for projects to be  
7 funded based upon the recommendations of the scientific review  
8 committee. The Directors of the Florida Marine Research  
9 Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program shall  
10 jointly make final project funding decisions and also provide  
11 a joint report to the Legislature on program progress by July  
12 1 of each year during which the program is being funded.

13           Section 2. The Florida Marine Biotechnology Research,  
14 Training, and Development Program will support research using  
15 modern techniques of cell and molecular biology in the  
16 following areas:

17           (1) Aquaculture, focused on cellular and molecular  
18 techniques to improve size, growth rate, disease resistance,  
19 survivability, and reproductive yields of aquacultured  
20 organisms:

21           (2) Marine animal health, focused on marine pathogens,  
22 diagnostics, treatments, drug delivery systems, and  
23 immunology, physiology, and pharmacology of both wild and  
24 cultured marine animals;

25           (3) Marine bioproducts, focused on the discovery of  
26 drugs, bioadhesives, biominerals, and other economically  
27 important products, the development of new models and screens  
28 for product discovery, the identification of new drug targets  
29 and mechanisms-of-action of marine-derived drugs, the  
30 development of sustainable production methods for marine  
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1 bioproducts and the development of novel methods for marine  
2 by-product utilization;

3 (4) Coastal human health risks, focused on the  
4 development of new diagnostic tools to assess seafood  
5 pathogens and water-borne pathogens and pollutants;

6 (5) Coastal habitat restoration, focused on  
7 remediation, and molecular and cellular approaches to strain  
8 improvement, hybrid development, and production technology for  
9 submerged and coastal aquatic vegetation; and

10 (6) Forensics and monitoring, focused on bioforensics  
11 for identification of threatened and endangered species,  
12 seafood identification, evaluation of health risks, regulatory  
13 issues as related to economic fraud, and the development of  
14 new biosensors.

15 Section 3. Funds appropriated for this program must be  
16 awarded to projects based on competition as determined by a  
17 scientific peer review process, which may include the advice  
18 of a nationwide panel of experts. Review criteria will include  
19 project rationale, scientific merit, potential applications,  
20 industrial sponsorship, investigator qualifications, potential  
21 for partnerships, and plans for technology transfer to  
22 industry or the public sector. All universities, public  
23 research laboratories, and private nonprofit research  
24 laboratories in the state are eligible to compete for funding  
25 based on the submission of proposals and selection by the  
26 competitive process. There is appropriated from the General  
27 Revenue Fund to the Florida Marine Research Institute for  
28 fiscal year 2001-2002 a sum of \$2,000,000 for the first year  
29 of the program. The intent of the Legislature is that the  
30 program continue for a total of 5 years, with an annual  
31 appropriation each year. Annual appropriations used to fund

1 projects under this act must provide that the annual  
2 appropriations be spent over a period not to exceed 42 months  
3 for each project and activity of the program. The Florida  
4 Marine Research Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College  
5 Program will disburse all funds based on the competitive  
6 process prescribed by this act and the steering committee.  
7 Projects funded within the Florida Marine Research Institute  
8 shall receive funds directly from the institute from this  
9 appropriation. Funds awarded to universities and private  
10 nonprofit research laboratories will be transferred by the  
11 Florida Marine Research Institute by contract through the  
12 Florida Sea Grant College Program. All projects should promote  
13 public and private partnerships when possible. No more than  
14 \$25,000 each may be used by the Florida Marine Research  
15 Institute and the Florida Sea Grant College Program for  
16 technical administration of this program. Up to \$16,000 may be  
17 used by the Florida Sea Grant College Program for the expenses  
18 of the peer review and technical panel.

19       Section 4. The long-term goal of the program is the  
20 creation of products and processes that will advance the  
21 marine biotechnology industry in the state. This industry will  
22 create new, clean, high-technology businesses, will provide  
23 high-paying jobs, and will create employment opportunities  
24 that will keep Florida-trained students in the state.

25       Section 5. Contractual services procured under this  
26 act are not subject to section 287.057, Florida Statutes.

27       Section 6. Rules are not required for the  
28 implementation of this act.

29       Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates the Florida Marine Biotechnology Research, Training, and Development Program, to be administered by the Director of the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Director of the Florida Sea Grant College Program. Provides an appropriation to fund research projects on a competitive basis.