

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1100

SPONSOR: Transportation Committee and Senator Saunders

SUBJECT: Spaceport Florida Authority

DATE: February 27, 2002 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	McAuliffe	Meyer	TR	Favorable/CS
2.	_____	_____	GO	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This CS amends s. 331.308, F.S., changing the name of the Spaceport Florida Authority to the Florida Space Authority and the composition of the board of supervisors. The CS changes the number of voting members appointed by the Governor from seven to eight, maintaining an ex-officio non-voting senator appointed by the President of the Senate, an ex-officio non-voting state representative appointed by the Speaker of the House, one designee from labor interests, and one designee from minority interests. This CS requires that four of the eight regular board members represent Florida’s space-flight related businesses, and one of the four must represent a small business.

This CS substantially amends section 331.308, F.S., of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Spaceport Florida Authority (Spaceport Florida) was created as a state government space agency in 1989. (See chapter 331, part II, F.S.) Spaceport Florida’s mission is to retain, expand, and diversify the state’s space-related industry.

Chapter 331, F.S., gives Spaceport Florida governmental powers similar to other types of transportation authorities (airport, seaport, etc.) to support and regulate the state’s space transportation industry. With regard to spaceport development and operations, Spaceport Florida is broadly empowered to own, operate, construct, finance, acquire, extend, equip, and improve the following types of spaceport infrastructure: launch pads, landing areas, ranges, space flight hardware, payloads, payload assembly buildings, payload processing facilities, laboratories, and space business incubators. In addition to these specific types of infrastructure, Spaceport Florida is empowered to support facilities and equipment for the construction of payloads, space flight

hardware, rockets and other launch vehicles, and other spaceport facilities and related systems (utility infrastructure, fire and police services, mosquito control, etc.).

Spaceport Florida has sponsored more than \$500 million in new space industry developments, including improvements to launch pads, hangars, payload facilities, control centers, storage facilities, and tourism facilities. Using various financing mechanisms, Spaceport Florida is able to fund the construction of facilities and, while retaining ownership, lease the facilities to users who provide sufficient debt security.

Spaceport Florida is administered by a seven-member, Governor-appointed Board of Supervisors. Each of the regular board members appointed by the Governor must be a resident of the state and have experience relevant to the space industry. Further, one appointee must represent organized labor, and one appointee must represent minority interests. There are also two ex officio nonvoting members on the board, one of whom is a state senator selected by the President of the Senate and one of whom is a state representative selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Spaceport Florida's executive director reports to the board and provides day-to-day management of the agency. Functionally, Spaceport Florida reports to the Governor through the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED). As the state's space agency, Spaceport Florida provides overall space policy advice to the Governor, Florida's congressional delegation, the Legislature, and other state-level elected officials.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This CS amends s. 331.308, F.S., changing the name of the Spaceport Florida Authority to the Florida Space Authority, and changing the composition of the board of supervisors. The CS changes the number of voting members appointed by the Governor from seven to eight, maintaining an ex-officio non-voting senator appointed by the President of the Senate, an ex-officio non-voting state representative appointed by the Speaker of the House, one designee from labor interests, and one designee from minority interests.

This CS requires that four of the eight regular board members represent Florida's space-flight related businesses as defined in s. 212.031, F.S., and one of those four must represent small businesses as defined in s. 228.703, F.S. Each of the voting board members is subject to confirmation by the Senate at the next regular session, and existing board members are not prohibited from reappointment. The CS provides regular board members will serve 4-year terms.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
