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An act relating to small aircraft transportation; providing legislative intent with respect to NASA's Small Aircraft Transportation System; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

(a) Improve travel choices, mobility, and accessibility for the citizens of the state.

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. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.