



HB 1349

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to a residential mathematics, science, and technology high school; creating the Planning Task Force for the Columbia Residential Mathematics, Science, and Technology High School, which will be located in close proximity to Kennedy Space Center; providing task force membership, subcommittees, and duties; providing that the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) Education Programs Office shall administer the residential high school; providing for a summer pilot program; providing deadlines; providing requirements for admission to the pilot program; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Legislature seek to strengthen and improve the economy of Florida and diversify the tax base to lessen reliance on tourism and agriculture, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Governor and the Legislature that high-technology companies locate in Florida, and

WHEREAS, the preparation of high school and college graduates directly affects the location of such companies and the future of Florida as a science and technology center, and

WHEREAS, research shows that high school students learn mathematics and science more quickly and with a deeper understanding when they can use facilities and equipment to design and conduct experiments that illustrate these concepts, and



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29 WHEREAS, Florida has a strong interest in improving the
30 performance of students in the areas of math and science, as
31 measured by standardized testing such as the FCAT, and

32 WHEREAS, Florida has an incomparable resource in scientific
33 and mathematically related activities and facilities located at
34 NASA and the Space Coast, and the Space Experiment Research and
35 Processing Laboratory (SERPL) offers the opportunity for college
36 students and college professors to interact with high school
37 students in the residential program, and

38 WHEREAS, outstanding students in mathematics and science
39 can benefit greatly from intense learning and research
40 experiences led by master teachers working with mathematicians
41 and scientists from our universities and corporate partners, and

42 WHEREAS, in recognition of the contributions and sacrifice
43 of the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia, it is fitting to
44 designate a Florida residential mathematics, science, and
45 technology high school as the Columbia Residential Mathematics,
46 Science, and Technology High School, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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50 Section 1. Columbia Residential Mathematics, Science, and
51 Technology High School.--

52 (1) There is created the Planning Task Force for the
53 Columbia Residential Mathematics, Science, and Technology High
54 School, which school shall be located in close proximity to the
55 John F. Kennedy Space Center. The task force shall consist of 12
56 members, of whom the Governor shall appoint four, the President
57 of the Senate shall appoint four, and the Speaker of the House
58 of Representatives shall appoint four.



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59 (2) The subcommittees within the task force are:

60 (a) Facilities subcommittee.--The facilities subcommittee
61 shall:

62 1. Assess the facilities formerly occupied by the space
63 camp;

64 2. Determine the best configuration for student housing;

65 3. Determine whether any modifications are needed to
66 accommodate the school and the projected cost of such
67 modifications; and

68 4. Review the potential for future program expansion and
69 determine the best course for such expansion.

70 (b) Program configuration subcommittee.--The program
71 configuration subcommittee shall:

72 1. Determine the subject content that is to be offered to
73 students, the length of the program, and the number of students
74 to be admitted;

75 2. Investigate methods of delivering instruction, such as
76 a distance-learning component, internships, and mentoring; and

77 3. Explore alternative methods for the delivery of K-12
78 educational opportunities for the children of employees working
79 at Kennedy Space Center.

80 (c) Teacher-training subcommittee.--The teacher-training
81 subcommittee shall:

82 1. Determine the role of the school in providing teacher
83 training, in conjunction with The Endeavour Academy; and

84 2. Devise ways in which the school can contribute to the
85 preparation of teachers for public schools in the areas of
86 mathematics, science, and technology, including delivering
87 teacher training by using the expertise of the teaching staff of
88 the residential school.



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89 (3) In order to launch the project properly and determine
90 funding requirements:

91 (a) A comprehensive plan must be created;

92 (b) Preliminary programs must be tested;

93 (c) Private funding efforts must be explored;

94 (d) Facility designs must be developed; and

95 (e) Program costs must be determined.

96 (4) As prerequisites to accomplishing the goals set forth
97 in subsection (3), the planning task force shall determine:

98 (a) The predicted cost of the program.

99 (b) Ways in which the program will interface with the
100 Space Experiment Research and Processing Laboratory (SERPL), the
101 Kennedy Space Center, universities, and other regional and
102 national organizations, and with astronauts and engineers.

103 (c) How students will be selected.

104 (d) To what extent and in what ways business and industry
105 are to be involved.

106 (e) Criteria for the selection of faculty and staff.

107 (f) Timelines.

108 (g) Critical decision points that must be met.

109 (5) The Technological Research and Development Authority
110 (TRDA) Education Programs Office shall administer the program.

111 By March 1, 2004, the office shall hire an experienced
112 administrative team to manage the day-to-day operations of the
113 school and shall hire a sufficient number of highly qualified
114 teachers to conduct a 9-week summer pilot program beginning in
115 June 2004. By May 1, 2004, up to 50 applicants who have
116 completed grade 8 or higher shall be selected as enrollees in
117 the pilot program. The parent or guardian of each enrollee must
118 sign a contract stating that the enrollee intends to complete



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119 the summer program, and each parent or guardian must pay a
120 reasonable tuition to cover the cost of the 9-week program.

121 Section 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the
122 General Revenue Fund to the planning task force for the Columbia
123 Residential Mathematics, Science, and Technology High School, to
124 be used in completing the development phase of the high school,
125 including developing the overall plan; conducting a summer pilot
126 program; creating a development-fundraising program; completing
127 preliminary architectural assessments, costs, and renditions;
128 and administering the task force.

129 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.