

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.)

Prepared By: Commerce and Consumer Services Committee

BILL: SB 1970

SPONSOR: Senator Posey

SUBJECT: Florida Space Research Institute

DATE: April 4, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Barrett	Cooper	CM	Favorable
2.			ED	
3.			EA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill revises the responsibilities and board membership of the Florida Space Research Institute (FSRI), and revises the responsibilities of the FSRI board.

This bill also provides for an appropriation of \$10 million from General Revenue to the Department of Education to establish FSRI as a multi-university center for space research and an appropriation of \$1 million from General Revenue to Florida Atlantic University to invest in FSRI's matching grant program.

This bill substantially amends section 331.368 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Space Research Institute

In 1999, the Legislature created the Florida Space Research Institute (FSRI) to develop opportunities for Florida's academic institutions to support space technology programs. FSRI leverages state resources with those of NASA, the military, and industry, to expand and diversify Florida's space-related enterprise. For example, FSRI is responsible for co-management (with NASA) of the new Space Life Sciences Laboratory and to assist Florida-based companies and universities with a variety of space-related research projects. FSRI also sponsors a range of workforce initiatives, including space-oriented instruction for K-12 teachers, and training for future aerospace technicians. State funding for FSRI is provided through the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 331.368, F.S., to require the Florida Space Research Institute (FSRI) to submit a plan to the Board of Governors by June 30, 2005, for its operation as a multi-university center for space research and technology development.

This section also provides that FSRI may leverage annual funding from NASA for grants to Florida academic institutions and industry to use for expanding and diversifying space research and sponsoring education and training projects that support aerospace workforce needs.

This section removes from the institute's board a representative of the Florida Space Business Roundtable.

This section adds Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to those public and private institutions invited to participate in board activities by the FSRI board.

This section is further amended to remove a requirement that the FSRI board select a lead university to: serve as coordinator of research for FSRI, support FSRI's development of a statewide space research agenda, and develop a report recommending ways the state's academic institutions can work together to support the state's space industry.

This section also provides that the FSRI board will co-manage operation of the Space Life Sciences Lab, at Kennedy Space Center, with NASA.

This section requires the FSRI board to encourage participation of Florida's space industry in space exploration, and to develop partnerships with NASA to research space exploration.

Section 2 provides that, effective July 1, 2005, for fiscal year 2005-2006, \$10 million will be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to establish the Florida Space Research Institute as a multi-university center for space research and technology development.

Section 3 provides that, effective July 1, 2005, \$1 million will be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to Florida Atlantic University to invest in the Florida Space Research Institute's matching grant program with NASA.

Section 4 provides this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, except as otherwise provided.

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:

This bill provides that, effective July 1, 2005, for fiscal year 2005-2006, \$10 million will be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to establish the Florida Space Research Institute as a multi-university center for space research and technology development.

This bill provides that, effective July 1, 2005, \$1 million will be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to Florida Atlantic University to invest in the Florida Space Research Institute's matching grant program with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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