

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to advanced science and technology
3 research; creating s. 1004.226, F.S.; creating the 21st
4 Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Enhancement
5 Act; providing legislative findings and intent; providing
6 definitions; creating the Florida Technology, Research,
7 and Scholarship Board within the Board of Governors of the
8 State University System; providing for members of the
9 board; providing for terms; providing for board members to
10 be reimbursed for per diem and expenses incurred in the
11 performance of their duties; requiring that the Board of
12 Governors of the State University System provide staff
13 support and other support for the board; requiring that
14 the board provide recommendations for the 21st Century
15 World Class Scholars Program and the Centers of Excellence
16 Program; authorizing the board to form committees and
17 consult with certain other entities; providing for the
18 21st Century World Class Scholars Program to provide
19 matching funds to state universities to pay salaries and
20 support research in science and technology; providing
21 guidelines for the board in the development of criteria
22 for recommendation to the Board of Governors; requiring a
23 minimum investment of private funds; specifying the
24 purposes of the Centers of Excellence; requiring the board
25 to recommend to the Board of Governors criteria for
26 approving proposals to create or expand a Center of
27 Excellence, to solicit proposals, and to recommend
28 proposals that meet such criteria; requiring documentation

29 if funds are approved for a Center of Excellence in excess
 30 of a specified amount; requiring reports by Centers of
 31 Excellence and the Board of Governors; providing for
 32 expiration of the act; providing appropriations and
 33 authorizing positions; providing for carrying forward
 34 certain unexpended balances; providing an effective date.

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

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 38 Section 1. Section 1004.226, Florida Statutes, is created
 39 to read:

40 1004.226 The 21st Century Technology, Research, and
 41 Scholarship Enhancement Act.--

42 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

43 (a) The Legislature finds that diversifying this state's
 44 economy requires a focus on building a growing base of high-wage
 45 jobs and on nurturing those technologies and clusters that will
 46 be the foundation of Florida's growing economic diversity and
 47 prosperity.

48 (b) The Legislature further finds that special programs
 49 are needed to facilitate the recruitment of exceptional talent
 50 to Florida's research universities and centers and to provide
 51 the infrastructure and resources that precipitate joint efforts
 52 and coinvestment among state research and development
 53 institutions, private industry, and government. Florida needs
 54 consistent commitment and investment in order to further the
 55 state's strategy of capitalizing on innovative research and
 56 development to build a thriving, technology-rich economy.

57 (2) CREATION.--The 21st Century Technology, Research, and
58 Scholarship Enhancement Act is created for the purpose of:

59 (a) Investing in programs that attract world class
60 scholars and building Centers of Excellence as an important
61 means of increasing technology-based business in this state;

62 (b) Requiring coinvestment as a means of leveraging state
63 dollars;

64 (c) Aligning research and development efforts with
65 established, statewide economic-development strategies,
66 including an emphasis on identified economic clusters;

67 (d) Facilitating value-added job creation through
68 continuous improvement in university research, as well as
69 entrepreneurship and capital-development programs; and

70 (e) Establishing Florida as a leading state for
71 entrepreneurship and innovation, with continued commitment to
72 university Centers of Excellence and an expanding base of
73 research and development.

74 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

75 (a) "A 21st Century World Class Scholar" means a principal
76 researcher/investigator who has high academic credentials,
77 demonstrated competence, and experience that meets the
78 requirements established by the board for a 21st Century World
79 Class Scholar.

80 (b) "Applicant" means any state university, private
81 university located in this state, or any private or public
82 research center, community college, or training center in this
83 state which coordinates with a state university for purposes of
84 this act.

85 (c) "Board" means the Florida Technology, Research, and
 86 Scholarship Board.

87 (d) "Center of Excellence" means an organization of
 88 personnel, facilities, and equipment established at or in
 89 collaboration with one or more state universities to accomplish
 90 the purposes and objectives of this act.

91 (e) "Research center" means an institute, center, or
 92 clinic that includes research and development or education as a
 93 principal mission of the organization.

94 (f) "State university" means a Florida public university
 95 as defined in s. 1000.21.

96 (4) FLORIDA TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, AND SCHOLARSHIP
 97 BOARD.--The Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board
 98 is created within the Board of Governors of the State University
 99 System to guide the establishment of Centers of Excellence and
 100 the attraction of world class scholars.

101 (a) The board shall consist of 11 members. Seven members
 102 shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom the Governor
 103 shall appoint as chair of the board, and one of whom must be a
 104 member of the board of directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc.,
 105 and one of whom must be a member of the Board of Governors of
 106 the State University System. Two members shall be appointed by
 107 the President of the Senate and two members shall be appointed
 108 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Appointed
 109 members must be representative of business leaders, industrial
 110 researchers, academic researchers, scientists, and leaders in
 111 the emerging and advanced technology sector. Appointed members
 112 may not serve for more than 4 years and any vacancy that occurs

HB 1237

2006

113 during these appointees' terms shall be filled in the same
114 manner as the original appointment. A majority of members
115 constitutes a quorum.

116 (b) Members of the board shall serve without compensation,
117 but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and
118 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while in the
119 performance of their duties.

120 (c) The Board of Governors shall provide staff support for
121 the activities of the board and per diem and travel expenses for
122 board members.

123 (d) The board is charged with recommending criteria to the
124 Board of Governors for the 21st Century World Class Scholars
125 Program and with providing guidance to the Board of Governors
126 regarding the implementation and administration of the Centers
127 of Excellence Program. The board shall recommend to the Board of
128 Governors the qualifications, standards, and requirements for
129 approval of investments in Centers of Excellence under this act.
130 The board may form committees of its members, and is encouraged
131 to consult with Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Florida Research
132 Consortium, Bio-Florida, IT Florida, the Florida Aviation and
133 Aerospace Alliance, and any other entity whose input may be
134 helpful in determining the requirements and standards for the
135 program.

136 (5) THE 21ST CENTURY WORLD CLASS SCHOLARS PROGRAM.--

137 (a) This act allocates resources to attract 21st Century
138 World Class Scholars to state universities by cofunding
139 endowments for salaries and operating funds and cofunding the
140 purchase of equipment in support of the scholar's research.

HB 1237

2006

141 (b) The 21st Century World Class Scholars Program shall be
142 used as a tool to develop the state's capabilities in science
143 and high-technology research, emphasizing Florida's identified
144 strengths in science and technology disciplines while also
145 recognizing new technologies as they may emerge.

146 (c) The board, in consultation with senior administrators
147 of state universities, state university foundation directors,
148 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the
149 board of directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and leading
150 members of private industry, shall develop and recommend to the
151 Board of Governors criteria for the 21st Century World Class
152 Scholars Program.

153 (d) In developing the recommended criteria for the 21st
154 Century World Class Scholars Program, the board shall consider
155 the following guidelines to judge a state university's
156 qualification for an award:

157 1. The presence of distinguished faculty members,
158 including whether the university has a substantial history of
159 external funding, along with the strong potential for attracting
160 a scholar of national or international eminence.

161 2. The presence of academically outstanding graduate
162 students, along with the promise and potential for attracting
163 additional highly qualified students.

164 3. The presence of adequate research and scholarly support
165 services.

166 4. The existence of an academic environment having
167 appropriate infrastructure, including buildings, classrooms,
168 libraries, laboratories, and specialized equipment, which is

HB 1237

2006

169 conducive to the conduct of the highest quality of scholarship
170 and research.

171 5. The demonstration of concordance with Florida's
172 strategic plan for economic development or an emphasis on one or
173 more emerging sciences or technologies that could favorably
174 impact the state's economic future.

175 (e) A minimum amount of private funds, no less than \$1
176 million, must be coinvested with state dollars to recruit a 21st
177 Century World Class Scholar. State appropriations may not be
178 used for this purpose.

179 (f) Upon the verification by the Board of Governors that a
180 state university has met the criteria for a 21st Century World
181 Class Scholar, the Board of Governors shall immediately release
182 matching funds to the university's endowment in support of the
183 scholar. Private funding shall be eligible for a one-to-one
184 match from the state. Endowment proceeds may be used for the
185 salary or to supplement the salary of the 21st Century World
186 Class Scholar or for individuals directly associated with the
187 scholar's research and for expenses related to the research.

188 (g) This act does not replace or obviate existing
189 programs. (6) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.--

190 (a) The purposes and objectives of a Center of Excellence
191 include:

192 1. Identifying and pursuing opportunities for university
193 scholars, research center scientists and engineers, and private
194 businesses to form collaborative partnerships to foster and
195 promote the research required to develop commercially promising,
196 advanced, and innovative science and technology and to transfer

HB 1237

2006

197 those discoveries to commercial sectors.

198 2. Acquiring and leveraging public-sector and private-
199 sector funding to provide the totality of funds, personnel,
200 facilities, equipment, and other resources needed to support the
201 research required to develop commercially promising, advanced,
202 and innovative science and technology and to transfer those
203 discoveries to commercial sectors.

204 3. Recruiting and retaining world class scholars, high-
205 performing students, and leading scientists and engineers in
206 technology disciplines to engage in research in this state and
207 to develop commercially promising, advanced, and innovative
208 science and technology.

209 4. Enhancing and expanding science and technology
210 curricula and laboratory resources at universities and research
211 centers in this state.

212 5. Increasing the number of high-performing students in
213 science and technology disciplines who graduate from
214 universities in this state and pursue careers in this state.

215 6. Stimulating and supporting the inception, growth, and
216 diversification of science and technology-based businesses and
217 ventures in Florida and increasing employment opportunities for
218 the workforce needed to support such businesses.

219 (b) The board shall recommend to the Board of Governors
220 criteria for approving proposals to create or expand a Center of
221 Excellence. Such criteria must consider:

222 1. The maturity of the applicant's existing programs
223 relating to a proposed Center of Excellence.

224 2. The comprehensiveness and effectiveness of site plans

225 relating to a proposed Center of Excellence.

226 3. The existing amount of the applicant's resources
227 dedicated to activities relating to a proposed Center of
228 Excellence.

229 4. The regional economic structure and climate.

230 5. The degree to which the applicant identifies and seizes
231 opportunities to collaborate with other public or private
232 entities for research purposes.

233 6. The presence of a comprehensive performance and
234 accountability measurement system.

235 7. The use of an integrated research and development
236 strategy using multiple levels of the educational system.

237 8. The ability of the applicant to raise research funds
238 and leverage public and private investment dollars to support
239 advanced and emerging scientific and technological research and
240 development projects.

241 9. The degree to which the applicant transfers advanced
242 and emerging sciences and technologies from its laboratories to
243 the commercial sector.

244 10. The degree to which the applicant stimulates and
245 supports the creation of new ventures.

246 11. The existence of a plan to enhance academic curricula
247 by improving communication between academia and industry.

248 12. The existence of a plan to increase the number,
249 quality, and retention rate of faculty and graduate students in
250 advancing and emerging science and technology-based disciplines.

251 13. The existence of a plan to increase the likelihood of
252 faculty and graduate students pursuing private-sector careers in

HB 1237

2006

253 the state.

254 14. The ability of the applicant to provide capital
255 facilities necessary to support research and development.

256 (c) The board shall periodically solicit proposals for
257 Centers of Excellence. The board may issue broad solicitations
258 for applicants to establish a Center of Excellence, including
259 entities other than state universities. All applicants must
260 submit and demonstrate coordination with one or more state
261 universities in order to be eligible for funding. The board may
262 solicit proposals for a more defined Center of Excellence that
263 is intended to meet identified needs or capitalize on perceived
264 technology and research opportunities. The board shall notify
265 the president of each state university and applicable research
266 centers in this state of the call for proposals.

267 (d) The board shall recommend to the Board of Governors
268 for approval and funding those proposals that meet the criteria
269 approved by the Board of Governors.

270 (e) If no proposal is judged worthy of approval during a
271 solicitation cycle, an approval need not be made. This act does
272 not establish a limit for an investment amount; however, any
273 approval for a single Center of Excellence exceeding \$20 million
274 must be documented to have superior prospects for success in its
275 field of research and offer outstanding opportunities to
276 leverage state dollars.

277 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--

278 (a) Any Center of Excellence receiving funding pursuant to
279 this section shall provide at least annual reports to the board
280 and the Board of Governors concerning its achievement of

281 objectives as identified and presented in the approved proposal.

282 (b) The Board of Governors of the State University System
 283 shall issue an annual report by December 31 each year of the
 284 activities conducted, including the accomplishments and overall
 285 economic benefits to the state, the number of 21st Century World
 286 Class Scholars attracted, the number of Centers of Excellence
 287 created or expanded, the success of collaborations with related
 288 industries, and the success of these programs. The annual report
 289 shall be presented to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
 290 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The annual
 291 report must include a copy of an independent audit of the board
 292 and a review of the progress of programs established pursuant to
 293 this section.

294 (8) EXPIRATION.--This section shall expire June 30, 2011.

295 Section 2. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the sum of \$200
 296 million is appropriated from nonrecurring general revenue to the
 297 Board of Governors of the State University System, of which \$100
 298 million shall be allocated for the 21st Century World Class
 299 Scholars Program and \$100 million for the Centers of Excellence
 300 Program. Notwithstanding s. 216.301, Florida Statutes, and
 301 pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes, any unexpended balance
 302 from this appropriation shall be carried forward at the end of
 303 each fiscal year until the 2009-2010 fiscal year. At the end of
 304 the 2009-2010 fiscal year, any remaining balance of this
 305 appropriation which has not been disbursed by the Board of
 306 Governors shall revert unallocated to the General Revenue Fund.

307 Section 3. The following sums of money and full-time
 308 equivalent positions are appropriated to the Board of Governors

HB 1237

2006

309 of the State University System for the 2006-2007 fiscal year for
 310 the purpose of administering this act:

311 (1) Two full-time equivalent positions and 130,000 in
 312 approved annual salary rate;

313 (2) The sum of \$162,959 from recurring general revenue
 314 funds for salaries and benefits;

315 (3) The sum of \$101,892 from recurring general revenue
 316 funds for expenses;

317 (4) The sum of \$3,800 from nonrecurring general revenue
 318 funds for operating capital outlay; and

319 (5) The sum of \$786 from recurring general revenue funds
 320 for transfer to the Department of Management Services for the
 321 Human Resource Services Statewide Contract.

322 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.