

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the space industry; providing a short
 3 title; providing legislative findings; amending s.
 4 331.3051, F.S.; revising duties of Space Florida to
 5 include supporting the development and operation of the
 6 Space Technology and Research Diversification Initiative;
 7 creating s. 331.365, F.S.; establishing the
 8 multiuniversity Space Technology and Research
 9 Diversification Initiative within the Office of Tourism,
 10 Trade, and Economic Development; providing for duties and
 11 administration; providing an effective date.

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

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 15 Section 1. Short title.--This act may be cited as the
 16 "Space Technology Research and Diversification Initiative Act."

17 Section 2. Legislative findings.--The Legislature finds
 18 and declares that the anticipated impacts of the National
 19 Aeronautics and Space Administration's retirement of the Space
 20 Shuttle program reveal an underlying lack of diversification in
 21 Florida's space industry. Florida lags significantly behind
 22 other states in high-value, space-related research and
 23 technology development, resulting in an economic reliance on
 24 launch-related programs. The Legislature finds that the state
 25 should expand statewide involvement in space research and
 26 technology development programs involving multiple universities,
 27 industry, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and
 28 the military.

29 Section 3. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (8) of
30 section 331.3051, Florida Statutes, to read:

31 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.--Space Florida shall:

32 (8) Carry out its responsibility for research and
33 development by:

34 (c) Supporting the development and operation of the Space
35 Technology and Research Diversification Initiative. Such support
36 shall include, but not be limited to:

37 1. Advisory support for defining the focus and scope of
38 multiuniversity projects.

39 2. Access to the Cape Canaveral Spaceport and facilities,
40 including, but not limited to, the Space Life Sciences
41 Laboratory for research and program management.

42 3. Grant funding for projects that support the state's
43 objectives for space industry expansion and diversification.

44 Section 4. Section 331.365, Florida Statutes, is created
45 to read:

46 331.365 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
47 Development; Space Technology and Research Diversification
48 Initiative.--

49 (1) There is established within the Office of Tourism,
50 Trade, and Economic Development a multiuniversity Space
51 Technology and Research Diversification Initiative. The
52 initiative shall be a university-led program to develop high-
53 impact space research and applied technology programs that will
54 advance the state's interests in space industry expansion and
55 diversification. The initiative research shall be led by a
56 consortium of universities with a main campus located in

57 Brevard, Volusia, or Orange County and shall include, but not be
58 limited to, the following focus areas:

59 (a) Research into spaceflight biomedical countermeasures
60 to address problems associated with sustained human spaceflight
61 and exploration and human factors research for commercial human
62 spaceflight.

63 (b) Research, technology, policy, and engineering support
64 for new government and commercial space transportation programs
65 and microgravity research as part of the Hawking Center program.

66 (c) Research and development for spaceport and range
67 technologies and commercialization, including Earth, Moon, and
68 Mars spaceport technologies that are priorities for the National
69 Aeronautics and Space Administration and matching support for
70 the Florida-NASA Matching Grant Program.

71 (d) Research and development for space and upper
72 atmospheric science, including, but not limited to, a statewide
73 undergraduate-oriented, microsatellite and space
74 instrument/experiment design program, and space-based computing
75 technologies.

76 (e) The recruitment of out-of-state, world-class space
77 researchers to Florida universities.

78 (2) The initiative shall be centrally administered at the
79 Space Life Sciences Laboratory with advisory and other support
80 provided by Space Florida. The administering partners shall make
81 a best effort to maximize matching investments from industry,
82 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the United
83 States Department of Defense, and other organizations.

84 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.