

By the Committees on Governmental Operations; Commerce; and
Senator Gaetz

585-07341-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Research Commercialization
3 Matching Grant Program; creating s. 288.9552, F.S.;
4 providing legislative findings and intent; creating the
5 program; designating an existing committee, or
6 subcommittee thereof, within Enterprise Florida, Inc., for
7 certain purposes; providing for committee members to serve
8 without compensation; providing a deadline for processing
9 applications; requiring reports to the Governor and
10 Legislature; providing eligibility guidelines for
11 applicants; providing for a program administrator;
12 providing responsibilities of the program administrator;
13 providing for program administrative costs; designating a
14 fiduciary entity; specifying eligibility requirements;
15 providing for awards; requiring the Office of Program
16 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a
17 review of the matching grant program; requiring the office
18 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to
19 the Governor and the Legislature; providing
20 appropriations; providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24 Section 1. Section 288.9552, Florida Statutes, is created
25 to read:

26 288.9552 Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant
27 Program.--

28 (1) PURPOSE; GOALS AND OBJECTIVES; CREATION OF PROGRAM.--

29 (a) The purpose of the Florida Research Commercialization

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30 Matching Grant Program is to increase the amount of federal
31 funding coming to this state which will produce the kind of
32 distinctive technologies that drive today's knowledge-based
33 economy. By leveraging federal, state, and private-sector
34 resources, the program intends to accelerate the innovation
35 process and more efficiently transform research results into
36 products in the marketplace.

37 (b) The matching grant program is specifically intended to
38 be a catalyst for small or startup companies that can take
39 advantage of federal and state partnerships in order to
40 accelerate their growth and market penetration by helping to
41 overcome the funding gap faced by many small companies that are
42 based in this state. Specific goals and objectives of the program
43 include:

44 1. Increasing the amount of federal research moneys
45 received by small businesses in this state through awards from
46 the Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business
47 Technology Transfer Program of the Office of Technology of the
48 United States Small Business Administration.

49 2. Accelerating the entry of new technology-based products
50 into the marketplace.

51 3. Producing additional technology-based jobs for the
52 state.

53 4. Providing leveraged resources to increase the
54 effectiveness and success of applicants' projects.

55 5. Speeding commercialization of promising technologies.

56 6. Encouraging the establishment and growth of high-
57 quality, advanced technology firms in the state.

58 7. Accelerating deal flow and enhancing the state's

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59 investment infrastructure.

60 (c) The Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant
61 Program is created for the purpose of accomplishing the goals and
62 objectives specified in this section.

63 (2) ADMINISTRATION.--Enterprise Florida's Technology,
64 Entrepreneurship and Capital Committee, or a subcommittee thereof
65 having no fewer than seven members, shall develop programmatic
66 policy, ensure statewide applicability of the matching grant
67 program, establish criteria for grant awards, approve grant
68 awards, and review program progress and results.

69 (a) Members of the committee shall serve without
70 compensation.

71 (b) Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall provide staff support
72 for the committee.

73 (c) Applications for matching grant awards must be reviewed
74 and approved or denied within 45 days after receipt of the
75 application.

76 (d) Beginning December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter,
77 the committee shall transmit an annual report to the Governor,
78 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
79 Representatives for the previous fiscal year.

80 (3) ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES.--A qualified applicant shall:

81 (a) Be a business entity that is registered with the
82 Secretary of State to operate in this state. The qualified
83 applicant must also have its primary office and a majority of its
84 employees domiciled in Florida, and the principal research
85 activities must be conducted in the state.

86 (b) Be a small company for which a state matching grant is
87 necessary for project development and implementation.

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88 (c) Have received a federal Small Business Innovation
89 Research Program or Small Business Technology Transfer Program
90 Phase I award and have received an invitation to submit an
91 application for a Phase II award. If a Phase II award has already
92 been issued, the end date of the federal award must be identified
93 and justification must be provided as to how these additional
94 funds will enhance, not supplant, the existing award.

95 (d) Use federal, local, and private resources to the
96 maximum extent possible. Total project funding shall demonstrate:

97 1. Private-sector investments to offset the total cost of
98 the project; and

99 2. Not more than 25 percent of the project's total funding
100 is provided by the state grant.

101 (e) Conduct the project funded by the matching grant
102 program n this state.

103 (4) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.--Subject to appropriations,
104 Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall serve as program administrator.
105 Enterprise Florida, Inc., may contract for the performance of
106 technology review and related functions with a third party. Not
107 more than 10 percent of a legislative appropriation may be used
108 for administrative purposes. The responsibilities of the program
109 administrator include, but are not limited to:

110 (a) Coordinating and supporting the grant review, approval,
111 and contracting activities;

112 (b) Administering the grant-selection process, including,
113 but not limited to, issuing open-call requests for grant
114 applications and receiving, reviewing, and processing grant
115 applications;

116 (c) Serving as grant contract manager for recipients of a

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117 matching grant;

118 (d) Reporting program progress and results; and

119 (e) Establishing a mechanism by which information regarding
120 grant projects may be made available to facilitate additional
121 angel, seed, or venture capital investment.

122 (5) FIDUCIARY.--Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall award money
123 to a qualified applicant if:

124 (a) The committee approves the award;

125 (b) The qualified applicant demonstrates that it has
126 obtained a federal Small Business Innovation Research Program or
127 Small Business Technology Transfer Program Phase II award; and

128 (c) The qualified applicant executes a performance contract
129 with Enterprise Florida, Inc.

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131 Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall release funds to a qualified
132 applicant upon completion of all contract requirements.

133 (6) AWARDS.--The matching grant program may make one-time
134 awards of up to \$250,000 per project to a qualified applicant.

135 Section 2. Before the 2012 Regular Session of the
136 Legislature, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
137 Accountability shall conduct a review and evaluation of the
138 effectiveness and viability of the Florida Research
139 Commercialization Matching Grant Program. The office shall
140 specifically evaluate the use of federal grants and private
141 investment and the creation of new businesses and jobs. The
142 office shall also recommend outcome measures for further
143 evaluation of the program. The office shall submit a report of
144 its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President
145 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by

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146 January 1, 2012.

147 Section 3. The recurring sum of \$4 million is appropriated
148 from the General Revenue Fund to Enterprise Florida, Inc., for
149 the 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 fiscal years
150 for the purpose of implementing s. 288.9552, Florida Statutes.

151 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.