5-03336-08 20081446

## Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the importance of Aerospace Education in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida currently ranks third in aerospace jobs, employing approximately 148,000 Floridians earning annually an average of \$51,000, with wages totaling more than \$7 billion, and

WHEREAS, economically, Florida has been proactive in mobilizing assets to secure Florida's existing high-technology industry, in part through the creation of SPACE FLORIDA, and

WHEREAS, Florida has a formidable position within the aerospace industry given the state's strengths in space launch, space research, and space vehicle manufacturing, and

WHEREAS, Florida's economy currently faces a critical point in which economic development opportunities abound, but so does increasing global competition, particularly in the aerospace industry, and

WHEREAS, Florida is indeed the premier location for aerospace business and investment, but the state must work hard to maintain that position and even harder to develop growth in this arena, and

WHEREAS, aerospace is now a major global industry with annual commercial revenues in excess of \$340 billion, and the space industry is becoming a significant global growth market as businesses find more opportunities to harness space for a range of commercial applications, and

WHEREAS, the future economic prosperity of Florida depends in large part on a vibrant aerospace and high-technology industrial base, NOW, THEREFORE,

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Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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That the Florida Senate recognizes the importance of Aerospace Education and urges Florida business leaders, researchers, educational institutions, and residents to take this opportunity to focus on the coming challenges and work to make Florida an even greater contributor in the development of the aerospace industry.

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