

By the Committee on Commerce; and Senator Posey

577-06366-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Space Florida; creating s. 288.1087,
3 F.S.; providing legislative intent; creating the Space and
4 Aerospace Catalyst and Enhancement Program in the Office
5 of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; providing for
6 moneys from the funds to be distributed to upgrade space-
7 related infrastructure or to enter into partnerships with
8 applicable businesses on space-related projects; requiring
9 that certain information be provided to the Office of
10 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; providing for a
11 contract with nationally recognized economists to develop
12 an economic impact assessment model that evaluates the
13 costs, benefits, useful life, and other relevant factors
14 related to space and aerospace infrastructure projects;
15 describing the criteria by which the proposals will be
16 judged as eligible to receive funding; requiring the
17 executive board of Space Florida and the director of the
18 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to
19 recommend approval or disapproval of proposed projects;
20 providing for the Governor to decide which proposed
21 projects receive the funds; requiring certain contract
22 conditions; describing the content of the contract;
23 providing an appropriation; designating Space Mile Marker
24 One at the Space Florida headquarters; authorizing Space
25 Florida to erect suitable markers; providing an effective
26 date.

27
28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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577-06366-08

20082426c1

30 Section 1. Section 288.1087, Florida Statutes, is created
31 to read:

32 288.1087 The Space and Aerospace Catalyst and Enhancement
33 Act.--

34 (1)(a) The Legislature finds that attracting, retaining,
35 entering into partnerships with, and providing favorable
36 conditions for space and aerospace entrepreneurial endeavors can
37 provide widespread economic benefit to the state. State
38 investment in the space and aerospace industry can help provide
39 high-quality employment opportunities for residents of this
40 state, increase the overall tax base, invigorate the state's
41 entrepreneurial climate through the resulting business and
42 employment opportunities, and stimulate and enhance the state's
43 universities and community colleges. The Legislature also finds
44 that in the global economy there exists international competition
45 for space and aerospace infrastructure, facilities, and business
46 opportunities, and in most instances, when all available
47 resources for economic development have been used, the state
48 encounters competitive disadvantages. Further, the Legislature
49 finds that business incentives help create a competitive
50 environment for aerospace and space business. This often requires
51 an incentive to make it feasible for private investors to provide
52 infrastructure in those areas.

53 (b) The Legislature, therefore, declares that sufficient
54 resources should be made available to respond to extraordinary
55 economic opportunities in the space and aerospace business
56 sectors, to address the need for space and aerospace business
57 facilities and infrastructure, and to compete for key space and
58 aerospace businesses interested in entering into partnerships

577-06366-08

20082426c1

59 with the state.

60 (2) There is created in the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
61 Economic Development the Space and Aerospace Catalyst and
62 Enhancement Program to be available for use by Space Florida. The
63 moneys from the fund, which will be distributed to Space Florida
64 once certain conditions are met, shall be used to provide or
65 upgrade space-related infrastructure or business facilities, and
66 to compete for key space- and aerospace-associated businesses
67 interested in entering into partnerships with the state.

68 (3) Space Florida shall submit the following information
69 concerning its proposed infrastructure projects to the office for
70 its initial review. The information must include:

71 (a) A description of the type of space and aerospace
72 infrastructure project, its operations, and the associated
73 product or services associated with the facility.

74 (b) The number of full-time equivalent jobs that will be
75 created by the space and aerospace infrastructure project, the
76 total estimated average annual wages of those jobs, and the types
77 of business activities and jobs stimulated by the investment.

78 (c) The cumulative amount of investment of public and, if
79 applicable, private funds that will be dedicated to the project
80 within a specified period.

81 (d) A description of the stimulating effect that the
82 project is expected to have on a particular business sector in
83 the state or regional economy or on the state's universities and
84 community colleges.

85 (e) A statement of how the public investment is expected to
86 affect the decision of the applicant's business to locate or
87 expand in this state.

577-06366-08

20082426c1

88 (f) In those instances where Space Florida is entering into
89 a public-private partnership with a space-related business
90 entity, a financial analysis of the project company, including an
91 evaluation of the company's short-term liquidity ratio as
92 measured by its assets to liability, the company's profitability
93 ratio, the company's long-term solvency as measured by its debt-
94 to-equity ratio, and the company's most recent financial audit
95 statement and the related auditor's management letter.

96 (4) The office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development
97 shall contract with nationally recognized economists to develop
98 an economic impact assessment model that evaluates the costs,
99 benefits, useful life, and other relevant factors related to
100 space and aerospace infrastructure projects. The economic impact
101 assessment model must be available for use by Space Florida and
102 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development no later
103 than December 31, 2008.

104 (5) Projects eligible to receive funds through the Space
105 and Aerospace Catalyst and Enhancement Program must:

106 (a) Assist Space Florida in carrying out its
107 responsibilities under part II of chapter 331;

108 (b) Create the potential for or retain existing high-
109 quality, high-salary jobs in the space or aerospace industry in
110 this state;

111 (c) Have a potential positive payback ratio of at least 5
112 to 1;

113 (d) Be an inducement to the project's location or expansion
114 in the state;

115 (e) Be supported by the local community in which the
116 project is to be located;

577-06366-08

20082426c1

117 (f) If a public-private partnership, includes a match to
118 the state investment; and

119 (g) Have undergone the economic analysis in subsection (4).

120 (6) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development
121 may waive these criteria based on extraordinary circumstances if
122 the project would significantly benefit the local or regional
123 economy.

124 (7) (a) After receiving the economic impact assessment, the
125 Space Florida executive board and the director of the Office of
126 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall meet to recommend
127 approval or disapproval of each proposed project. For projects
128 recommended to receive funds, the board and director shall rank
129 each proposal in the order of its meeting the established
130 criteria. When recommending a project, Space Florida and the
131 director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
132 Development must include proposed performance conditions that the
133 project must meet in order to obtain money from the fund.

134 (b) The recommendations shall be sent to the Governor who
135 shall further evaluate the projects approved for funding. The
136 Governor shall consult with the President of the Senate and the
137 Speaker of the House of Representatives before giving final
138 approval for a project.

139 (c) The Executive Office of the Governor shall present the
140 recommended projects and funding request to the Legislative
141 Budget Commission, which shall conduct its review and release the
142 project funds pursuant to the legislative consultation and review
143 requirements set forth in s. 216.177. The recommendations must
144 include proposed performance conditions that each project is
145 expected to meet in order to receive funds.

577-06366-08

20082426c1

146 (d) After receiving the required approvals, the director of
147 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and the
148 recipient shall enter into a contract that sets forth the
149 conditions for receiving moneys from the fund. The contract must
150 include the total amount of funds awarded, the performance
151 conditions that must be met in order to obtain the award, a
152 baseline of current service and a measure of enhanced capability,
153 the methodology for validating performance, the schedule of
154 payments from the fund, and sanctions for failure to meet
155 performance conditions. The contract must state that payment is
156 contingent upon sufficient appropriation of funds by the
157 Legislature and upon sufficient release of appropriated funds by
158 the Legislative Budget Commission.

159 (8) Space Florida shall compile information about the
160 projects funded through the Space and Aerospace Catalyst and
161 Enhancement Program, and include the information in its annual
162 report.

163 Section 2. For the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the sum of \$15
164 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
165 Revenue Fund to the Space and Aerospace Catalyst and Enhancement
166 Program in the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development
167 for Space Florida for the purpose of implementing the provisions
168 of this act. The funds shall be deposited in the Economic
169 Development Trust Fund and withdrawn as approved.

170 Section 3. Space Mile Marker One designated; Space Florida
171 to erect suitable markers.--

172 (1) Space Florida shall identify and designate an 18-inch
173 by 18-inch square of land near the Space Florida headquarters
174 building as "Space Mile Marker One."

577-06366-08

20082426c1

175 | (2) Space Florida is authorized to erect suitable markers
176 | designating Space Mile Marker One as described in subsection (1).
177 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.