

By the Committee on Higher Education; and Senator Posey

589-07016-08

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

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

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30 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.--Space Florida shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 331.365 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;
46 Space Technology and Research Diversification Initiative.--

47 (1) There is established within the Office of Tourism,
48 Trade, and Economic Development a multiuniversity Space
49 Technology and Research Diversification Initiative. The
50 initiative shall be a university-led program to develop high-
51 impact space research and applied technology programs that will
52 advance the state's interests in space industry expansion and
53 diversification. The initiative research shall be performed by a
54 consortium of universities with a main campus located in Brevard,
55 Volusia, or Orange County and shall include, but not be limited
56 to, the following focus areas:

57 (a) Research into spaceflight biomedical countermeasures to
58 address problems associated with sustained human spaceflight and

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59 exploration and human factors research for commercial human
60 spaceflight.

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

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

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

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

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

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