

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 Enterprise Florida, Inc.,
 6 committee, or subcommittee thereof, for certain purposes;
 7 providing that committee members shall serve without
 8 compensation; requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to
 9 provide staff support; providing a deadline for processing
 10 applications; requiring annual reports to the Governor and
 11 Legislature; providing applicant eligibility guidelines;
 12 providing for a program administrator; providing
 13 responsibilities of the program administrator; providing
 14 for program administrative costs; designating a fiduciary
 15 entity; providing for release of awards to qualified
 16 applicants meeting requirements of fiduciary entity;
 17 providing a per-project award cap; requiring the Office of
 18 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to
 19 conduct a review and provide a report; providing a
 20 recurring appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

23
 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
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
43 program 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
47 Business Technology Transfer Program of the Office of Technology
48 of the 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
59 investment infrastructure.

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

63 (2) ADMINISTRATION.--Enterprise Florida's Technology,
64 Entrepreneurship and Capital Committee, or a subcommittee
65 thereof with no less than seven members, shall develop
66 programmatic policy, ensure statewide applicability of the
67 matching grant program, establish criteria for grant awards,
68 approve grant 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
74 reviewed and approved or denied within 45 days after receipt of
75 application.

76 (d) Beginning December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter,
77 the committee shall provide 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
84 its 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.

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
92 already been issued, the end date of the federal award must be
93 identified and justification must be provided as to how these
94 additional funds will enhance, not supplant, the existing award.

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

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

100 2. No more than 25 percent of the project's total funding
101 is provided by the state grant.

102 (e) Projects funded by the matching grant program shall be
103 conducted in this state.

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

111 (a) Coordinating and supporting the grant review,
112 approval, and contracting activities.

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

117 (c) Serving as grant contract manager for recipients of a
 118 matching grant.

119 (d) Reporting program progress and results.

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

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

125 (a) The committee approves the award;

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

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

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

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

136 Section 2. Prior to the 2013 Regular Session of the
 137 Legislature, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
 138 Government Accountability shall conduct a review and evaluation
 139 of the effectiveness and viability of the Florida Research
 140 Commercialization Matching Grant Program. The office shall

CS/HB 593

2008

141 specifically evaluate utilization of federal grants, private
142 investment, and the creation of new businesses and jobs. The
143 office shall also recommend outcome measures for further
144 evaluation of the program. The office shall submit a report of
145 its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President
146 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
147 no later than January 1, 2013.

148 Section 3. The recurring sum of \$4 million is appropriated
149 from the General Revenue Fund to Enterprise Florida, Inc., for
150 the 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013
151 fiscal years for the purpose of implementing s. 288.9552,
152 Florida Statutes.

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