

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 Transportation Research and Development Institute;  
 7           creating s. 331.365, F.S.; establishing the Space  
 8           Transportation Research and Development Institute within  
 9           the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development as  
 10          a multiuniversity initiative to pursue federal sponsorship  
 11          of space transportation research and technology programs;  
 12          providing for duties and administration; providing that  
 13          the act does not require appropriation of funds or  
 14          assignment of personnel resources by the Office of  
 15          Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; providing an  
 16          effective date.

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 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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20           Section 1. Short title.--This act may be cited as the  
 21 "Space Transportation Research and Development Institute Act."

22           Section 2. Legislative findings.--The Legislature finds  
 23 and declares that the anticipated impacts of the National  
 24 Aeronautics and Space Administration's retirement of the Space  
 25 Shuttle program reveal an underlying lack of diversification in  
 26 Florida's space industry. Florida lags significantly behind  
 27 other states in high-value, space-related research and  
 28 technology development while its space launch industry suffers

29 from outdated technologies and increased international and  
 30 domestic competition. The Legislature finds that the state  
 31 should expand statewide involvement in space research and  
 32 technology development programs that will leverage and improve  
 33 the state's space transportation industry through  
 34 multiuniversity partnerships with industry, the Federal Aviation  
 35 Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space  
 36 Administration, and the Department of Defense.

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

39 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.--Space Florida shall:

40 (8) Carry out its responsibility for research and  
 41 development by:

42 (c) Supporting the development and operation of the Space  
 43 Transportation Research and Development Institute when possible.  
 44 Such support may include, but not be limited to:

45 1. Providing the institute with advisory support for  
 46 defining the focus and scope of multiuniversity projects.

47 2. Providing the institute with access to the Cape  
 48 Canaveral Spaceport and other spaceport sites in the state,  
 49 including launch, laboratory, and processing facilities for  
 50 research and program management.

51 3. Providing support for the development of the institute  
 52 among relevant agencies and policymakers in Washington, D.C.,  
 53 and this state.

54 4. Engaging the institute as a partner in support of space  
 55 transportation policy, range and spaceport technology  
 56 development, and other space transportation technology programs.

57 5. Providing support to institute projects through the  
 58 Florida-NASA Matching Grant Program as provided in subsection  
 59 (10).

60 Section 4. Section 331.365, Florida Statutes, is created  
 61 to read:

62 331.365 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
 63 Development; Space Transportation Research and Development  
 64 Institute.--

65 (1) There is established within the Office of Tourism,  
 66 Trade, and Economic Development a multiuniversity Space  
 67 Transportation Research and Development Institute that shall  
 68 pursue Federal Aviation Administration sponsorship of a Center  
 69 of Excellence focused on high-impact space transportation  
 70 research, technology development, and policy analysis  
 71 activities. The institute shall be led by Embry-Riddle  
 72 Aeronautical University and shall include other public and  
 73 private postsecondary academic institutions within and outside  
 74 the state. The institute, through its partner institutions,  
 75 shall support research focus areas including, but not limited  
 76 to, spaceport licensing and safety; range and airspace  
 77 management systems development, simulation, and qualification;  
 78 spaceflight human factors issues; spaceflight passenger, crew,  
 79 and technician training and certification; launch vehicle safety  
 80 analysis; materials science for spaceflight; spaceport  
 81 instrumentation, technologies, and processes; and other topics  
 82 which may be of interest to the Federal Aviation Administration.

83 (2) The institute shall be established in phases, with the  
 84 initial phase focused on developing a management structure,

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85 establishing a formal relationship with the Federal Aviation  
86 Administration, and forming partnerships with academic  
87 institutions and industry. The institute shall provide a  
88 quarterly report to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
89 Development on the institute's activities, relationship status  
90 with the Federal Aviation Administration, research, and  
91 partnerships.

92 Section 5. This act shall not require the appropriation of  
93 funds or the assignment of personnel resources by the Office of  
94 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

95 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.