

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 intent; creating the program;  
 5           requiring administration of the program by a committee or  
 6           subcommittee of Enterprise Florida, Inc.; providing that  
 7           committee members shall serve without compensation;  
 8           requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to provide staff  
 9           support; providing a deadline for processing applications;  
 10          requiring the committee to submit annual reports to the  
 11          Governor and Legislature; providing applicant eligibility  
 12          guidelines; designating a program administrator and  
 13          providing the administrator's duties; providing for  
 14          program administrative costs; designating a fiduciary  
 15          entity; providing for release of awards to qualified  
 16          applicants meeting requirements of fiduciary entity;  
 17          limiting the amount of awards per project; requiring the  
 18          Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
 19          Accountability to submit a report to the Governor and  
 20          Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

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 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 in order to 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 Legislature intends for the program to accelerate  
35 technological innovations and more efficiently transform  
36 research results into products in the marketplace.

37        (b) The Legislature further intends for the matching grant  
38 program to be a catalyst for small or startup companies that can  
39 take 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-

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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.--The Technology, Entrepreneurship, and  
64 Capital Committee of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or a subcommittee  
65 thereof with at least seven members, shall develop programmatic  
66 policy, ensure statewide applicability of the matching grant  
67 program, establish criteria for grant awards, approve grant  
68 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, 2010, 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

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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 must demonstrate  
97 that:

98 1. Private-sector investments offset part of the total  
99 cost of 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.

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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. By January 1, 2012, the Office of Program  
137 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall submit a  
138 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
139 Speaker of the House of Representatives evaluating the  
140 effectiveness and viability of the Florida Research

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141 Commercialization Matching Grant Program. The report must  
142 specifically evaluate the utilization of federal grants, private  
143 investment, and the creation of new businesses and jobs. The  
144 report must also include recommended outcome measures for  
145 further evaluation of the program.

146 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.