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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FAV	.	
03/24/2010	.	
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The Committee on Commerce (Detert) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 288.9552, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:

288.9552 Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant  
Program.—

(1) PURPOSE; GOALS AND OBJECTIVES; CREATION OF PROGRAM.—

(a) The purpose of the Florida Research Commercialization  
Matching Grant Program is to increase the amount of federal  
funding to this state which will produce the kind of distinctive  
technologies that drive today's knowledge-based economy. By



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14 leveraging federal, state, and private-sector resources, the  
15 Legislature intends that program accelerate the innovation  
16 process and more efficiently transform research results into  
17 products in the marketplace.

18 (b) The matching grant program is specifically intended to  
19 be a catalyst for small or startup companies that can take  
20 advantage of federal and state partnerships in order to  
21 accelerate their growth and market penetration by helping them  
22 to overcome the funding gap faced by many small companies that  
23 are based in this state. Specific goals and objectives of the  
24 program include:

25 1. Increasing the amount of federal research moneys  
26 received by small businesses in this state through awards from  
27 the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small  
28 Business Technology Transfer Program of the Office of Technology  
29 of the United States Small Business Administration.

30 2. Accelerating the entry of new technology-based products  
31 into the marketplace.

32 3. Producing additional technology-based jobs for the  
33 state.

34 4. Providing leveraged resources to increase the  
35 effectiveness and success of applicants' projects.

36 5. Speeding commercialization of promising technologies.

37 6. Encouraging the establishment and growth of high-  
38 quality, advanced technology firms in the state.

39 7. Accelerating the rate of investment and enhancing the  
40 state's investment infrastructure.

41 (c) The Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant  
42 Program is created for the purpose of accomplishing the goals



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43 and objectives specified in this section.

44 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Florida Institute for the  
45 Commercialization of Public Research shall develop programmatic  
46 policy, ensure statewide applicability of the matching grant  
47 program, establish criteria for grant awards, approve grant  
48 awards, and review program progress and results.

49 (3) ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES.—A qualified applicant must:

50 (a) Be a business entity that is registered with the  
51 Secretary of State to operate in this state. The qualified  
52 applicant must also have its primary office and a majority of  
53 its employees domiciled in Florida, and its principal research  
54 activities must be conducted in the state.

55 (b) Be a small company for which a state matching grant is  
56 necessary for project development and implementation.

57 (c) Have received a Phase I award under the federal Small  
58 Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business  
59 Technology Transfer Program and have received an invitation to  
60 submit an application for a Phase II award. If a Phase II award  
61 has already been issued, the end date of the federal award must  
62 be identified and justification must be provided as to how these  
63 additional funds will enhance, not supplant, the existing award.

64 (d) Use federal, local, and private resources to the  
65 maximum extent possible. Total project funding shall demonstrate  
66 that:

67 1. Private-sector investments offset the total cost of the  
68 project; and

69 2. Not more than 25 percent of the project's total funding  
70 is provided by the state grant.

71 (e) Conduct the project funded by the matching grant



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72 program in this state.

73 (4) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—Subject to appropriations, the  
74 Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research  
75 shall serve as program administrator. The institute may contract  
76 for the performance of a technology review and related functions  
77 with a third party. Not more than 5 percent of a legislative  
78 appropriation may be used for administrative purposes. The  
79 responsibilities of the program administrator include, but are  
80 not limited to:

81 (a) Coordinating and supporting the grant review, approval,  
82 and contracting activities;

83 (b) Administering the grant-selection process, including,  
84 but not limited to, issuing open-call requests for grant  
85 applications and receiving, reviewing, and processing grant  
86 applications;

87 (c) Serving as grant contract manager for recipients of a  
88 matching grant;

89 (d) Reporting program progress and results; and

90 (e) Establishing a mechanism by which information regarding  
91 grant projects may be made available to facilitate additional  
92 investment by individual investors, investment for early start-  
93 up costs, or venture capital investment.

94 (5) APPLICATION REVIEW.—An application for a matching grant  
95 award must be reviewed and approved or denied within 45 days  
96 after receipt.

97 (6) FIDUCIARY.—The institute shall award a grant to a  
98 qualified applicant if:

99 (a) The qualified applicant demonstrates that it has  
100 obtained a Phase II award under the federal Small Business



101 Innovation Research Program or Small Business Technology  
102 Transfer Program; and  
103 (b) The qualified applicant executes a performance contract  
104 with the institute.

105  
106 The institute shall release the grant to a qualified applicant  
107 upon completion of all contract requirements.

108 (7) AWARDS.—The matching grant program may make one-time  
109 awards of up to \$250,000 per project to a qualified applicant.

110 (8) REPORTING.—Beginning December 1, 2011, and annually  
111 thereafter, the institute shall transmit a report relating to  
112 the grants awarded under the program to the Governor, the  
113 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
114 Representatives for the previous fiscal year.

115 (9) EXPIRATION.—This section expires July 1, 2013, unless  
116 reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature prior to that date.

117 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

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119  
120 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

121 And the title is amended as follows:

122 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
123 and insert:

124 A bill to be entitled  
125 An act relating to the Florida Research Commercialization  
126 Matching Grant Program; creating s. 288.9552, F.S.; providing  
127 legislative findings and intent; creating the program;  
128 specifying procedures for processing program applications;  
129 providing eligibility guidelines for applicants; providing for a



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130 program administrator; providing responsibilities of the program  
131 administrator; providing for certain contracts; providing for  
132 program administrative costs; providing for grant awards up to a  
133 specified amount; requiring the Institute for the  
134 Commercialization of Public Research to submit an annual  
135 progress report of the program to the Governor and Legislature;  
136 providing for expiration of the grant program; providing an  
137 effective date.