A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to economic development; amending s. 3 212.031, F.S.; providing a partial exemption from the tax 4 on renting, leasing, letting, or granting a license for 5 the use of real property for property rented, leased, 6 subleased, or licensed to a person providing certain 7 services at convention halls, civic centers, or public 8 lodging establishments; providing for application only to 9 certain portions of payments; providing for retroactive 10 application; amending s. 212.08, F.S., relating to 11 exemptions from sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; revising the definitions of 12 the terms "productive output" and "real property" for 13 14 purposes of certain exemptions; creating s. 288.0659, 15 F.S.; creating the Local Government Distressed Area 16 Matching Grant Program within the Office of Tourism, 17 Trade, and Economic Development; providing a program purpose; providing definitions; authorizing the office to 18 19 accept and administer appropriated moneys to provide local government distressed area matching grants; authorizing 20 21 local governments to apply for grants to match qualified 22 business assistance; providing qualifying requirements for 23 targeted businesses; specifying evaluation criteria for 24 reviewing grant requests; subjecting grant approval to 25 legislative appropriation; providing limitations on 26 expending funds; providing procedures for approving grant 27 allocations or disapproving application; providing a 28 process for making preliminary and final grant awards;

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providing requirements for grant recipients; providing for revocation of grants; limiting the grant amount for the qualified business assistance; authorizing the office to retain certain funds for administrative costs; providing appropriations; providing an effective date.

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

- Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 212.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 212.031 Tax on rental or license fee for use of real property.—
- (1) (a) It is declared to be the legislative intent that every person is exercising a taxable privilege who engages in the business of renting, leasing, letting, or granting a license for the use of any real property unless such property is:
 - 1. Assessed as agricultural property under s. 193.461.
 - 2. Used exclusively as dwelling units.
- 3. Property subject to tax on parking, docking, or storage spaces under s. 212.03(6).
- 4. Recreational property or the common elements of a condominium when subject to a lease between the developer or owner thereof and the condominium association in its own right or as agent for the owners of individual condominium units or the owners of individual condominium units. However, only the lease payments on such property shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter, and any other use made by the owner or the condominium association shall be fully taxable under this

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chapter.

- 5. A public or private street or right-of-way and poles, conduits, fixtures, and similar improvements located on such streets or rights-of-way, occupied or used by a utility or provider of communications services, as defined by s. 202.11, for utility or communications or television purposes. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "utility" means any person providing utility services as defined in s. 203.012. This exception also applies to property, wherever located, on which the following are placed: towers, antennas, cables, accessory structures, or equipment, not including switching equipment, used in the provision of mobile communications services as defined in s. 202.11. For purposes of this chapter, towers used in the provision of mobile communications services, as defined in s. 202.11, are considered to be fixtures.
- 6. A public street or road which is used for transportation purposes.
- 7. Property used at an airport exclusively for the purpose of aircraft landing or aircraft taxiing or property used by an airline for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or property onto or from aircraft or for fueling aircraft.
- 8.a. Property used at a port authority, as defined in s. 315.02(2), exclusively for the purpose of oceangoing vessels or tugs docking, or such vessels mooring on property used by a port authority for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or cargo onto or from such a vessel, or property used at a port authority for fueling such vessels, or to the extent that the amount paid for the use of any property at the port is based on

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the charge for the amount of tonnage actually imported or exported through the port by a tenant.

- b. The amount charged for the use of any property at the port in excess of the amount charged for tonnage actually imported or exported shall remain subject to tax except as provided in sub-subparagraph a.
- 9. Property used as an integral part of the performance of qualified production services. As used in this subparagraph, the term "qualified production services" means any activity or service performed directly in connection with the production of a qualified motion picture, as defined in s. 212.06(1)(b), and includes:
- a. Photography, sound and recording, casting, location managing and scouting, shooting, creation of special and optical effects, animation, adaptation (language, media, electronic, or otherwise), technological modifications, computer graphics, set and stage support (such as electricians, lighting designers and operators, greensmen, prop managers and assistants, and grips), wardrobe (design, preparation, and management), hair and makeup (design, production, and application), performing (such as acting, dancing, and playing), designing and executing stunts, coaching, consulting, writing, scoring, composing, choreographing, script supervising, directing, producing, transmitting dailies, dubbing, mixing, editing, cutting, looping, printing, processing, duplicating, storing, and distributing;
- b. The design, planning, engineering, construction,
 alteration, repair, and maintenance of real or personal property

including stages, sets, props, models, paintings, and facilities principally required for the performance of those services listed in sub-subparagraph a.; and

- c. Property management services directly related to property used in connection with the services described in subsubparagraphs a. and b.
- This exemption will inure to the taxpayer upon presentation of the certificate of exemption issued to the taxpayer under the provisions of s. 288.1258.
- 10. Leased, subleased, licensed, or rented to a person providing food and drink concessionaire services within the premises of a convention hall, exhibition hall, auditorium, stadium, theater, arena, civic center, performing arts center, publicly owned recreational facility, or any business operated under a permit issued pursuant to chapter 550. A person providing retail concessionaire services involving the sale of food and drink or other tangible personal property within the premises of an airport shall be subject to tax on the rental of real property used for that purpose, but shall not be subject to the tax on any license to use the property. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "sale" shall not include the leasing of tangible personal property.
- 11. Property occupied pursuant to an instrument calling for payments which the department has declared, in a Technical Assistance Advisement issued on or before March 15, 1993, to be nontaxable pursuant to rule 12A-1.070(19)(c), Florida Administrative Code; provided that this subparagraph shall only

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apply to property occupied by the same person before and after the execution of the subject instrument and only to those payments made pursuant to such instrument, exclusive of renewals and extensions thereof occurring after March 15, 1993.

- 12. Rented, leased, subleased, or licensed to a concessionaire by a convention hall, exhibition hall, auditorium, stadium, theater, arena, civic center, performing arts center, or publicly owned recreational facility, during an event at the facility, to be used by the concessionaire to sell souvenirs, novelties, or other event-related products. This subparagraph applies only to that portion of the rental, lease, or license payment which is based on a percentage of sales and not based on a fixed price. This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2009.
- 13. Property used or occupied predominantly for space flight business purposes. As used in this subparagraph, "space flight business" means the manufacturing, processing, or assembly of a space facility, space propulsion system, space vehicle, satellite, or station of any kind possessing the capacity for space flight, as defined by s. 212.02(23), or components thereof, and also means the following activities supporting space flight: vehicle launch activities, flight operations, ground control or ground support, and all administrative activities directly related thereto. Property shall be deemed to be used or occupied predominantly for space flight business purposes if more than 50 percent of the property, or improvements thereon, is used for one or more space flight business purposes. Possession by a landlord, lessor, or

licensor of a signed written statement from the tenant, lessee, or licensee claiming the exemption shall relieve the landlord, lessor, or licensor from the responsibility of collecting the tax, and the department shall look solely to the tenant, lessee, or licensee for recovery of such tax if it determines that the exemption was not applicable.

- 14. Rented, leased, subleased, or licensed to a person providing telecommunications, data systems management, or Internet services at a publicly or privately owned convention hall, civic center, or meeting space at a public lodging establishment as defined in s. 509.013. This subparagraph applies only to that portion of the rental, lease, or license payment that is based upon a percentage of sales, revenue sharing, or royalty payments and not based upon a fixed price. This subparagraph is intended to be clarifying and remedial in nature and shall apply retroactively. This subparagraph does not provide a basis for an assessment of any tax not paid, or create a right to a refund of any tax paid, pursuant to this section before July 1, 2010.
- Section 2. Paragraphs (b) and (g) of subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.
 - (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.-

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(b) Machinery and equipment used to increase productive output.—

- 1. Industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by a new business in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02 or for use in new businesses which manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed locations are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing by the taxpayer to the satisfaction of the department that such items are used in a new business in this state. Such purchases must be made prior to the date the business first begins its productive operations, and delivery of the purchased item must be made within 12 months of that date.
- 2. Industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by an expanding facility which is engaged in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02 or for use in expanding manufacturing facilities or plant units which manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed locations in this state are exempt from any amount of tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing by the taxpayer to the satisfaction of the department that such items are used to increase the productive output of such expanded facility or business by not less than 10 percent.
- 3.a. To receive an exemption provided by subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., a qualifying business entity shall apply to the department for a temporary tax exemption permit. The application shall state that a new business exemption or

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expanded business exemption is being sought. Upon a tentative affirmative determination by the department pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., the department shall issue such permit.

- b. The applicant shall be required to maintain all necessary books and records to support the exemption. Upon completion of purchases of qualified machinery and equipment pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., the temporary tax permit shall be delivered to the department or returned to the department by certified or registered mail.
- c. If, in a subsequent audit conducted by the department, it is determined that the machinery and equipment purchased as exempt under subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. did not meet the criteria mandated by this paragraph or if commencement of production did not occur, the amount of taxes exempted at the time of purchase shall immediately be due and payable to the department by the business entity, together with the appropriate interest and penalty, computed from the date of purchase, in the manner prescribed by this chapter.
- d. In the event a qualifying business entity fails to apply for a temporary exemption permit or if the tentative determination by the department required to obtain a temporary exemption permit is negative, a qualifying business entity shall receive the exemption provided in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. through a refund of previously paid taxes. No refund may be made for such taxes unless the criteria mandated by subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. have been met and commencement of production has occurred.

4. The department shall adopt rules governing applications for, issuance of, and the form of temporary tax exemption permits; provisions for recapture of taxes; and the manner and form of refund applications and may establish guidelines as to the requisites for an affirmative showing of increased productive output, commencement of production, and qualification for exemption.

- 5. The exemptions provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2. do not apply to machinery or equipment purchased or used by electric utility companies, communications companies, oil or gas exploration or production operations, publishing firms that do not export at least 50 percent of their finished product out of the state, any firm subject to regulation by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, or any firm which does not manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property or which does not use such machinery and equipment in spaceport activities as required by this paragraph. The exemptions provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2. shall apply to machinery and equipment purchased for use in phosphate or other solid minerals severance, mining, or processing operations.
- 6. For the purposes of the exemptions provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2., these terms have the following meanings:
- a. "Industrial machinery and equipment" means tangible personal property or other property that has a depreciable life of 3 years or more and that is used as an integral part in the

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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manufacturing, processing, compounding, or production of tangible personal property for sale or is exclusively used in spaceport activities. A building and its structural components are not industrial machinery and equipment unless the building or structural component is so closely related to the industrial machinery and equipment that it houses or supports that the building or structural component can be expected to be replaced when the machinery and equipment are replaced. Heating and airconditioning systems are not industrial machinery and equipment unless the sole justification for their installation is to meet the requirements of the production process, even though the system may provide incidental comfort to employees or serve, to an insubstantial degree, nonproduction activities. The term includes parts and accessories only to the extent that the exemption thereof is consistent with the provisions of this paragraph.

b. "Productive output" means the number of units actually produced by a single plant, or operation, or product line in a single continuous 12-month period, irrespective of sales.

Increases in productive output shall be measured by the output for 12 continuous months selected by the expanding business immediately following the completion of installation of such machinery or equipment over the output for the 12 continuous months immediately preceding such installation. However, if a different 12-month continuous period of time would more accurately reflect the increase in productive output of machinery and equipment purchased to facilitate an expansion, the increase in productive output may be measured during that

12-month continuous period of time if such time period is mutually agreed upon by the Department of Revenue and the expanding business prior to the commencement of production; provided, However, in no case may such time period begin later than 2 years following the completion of installation of the new machinery and equipment. The units used to measure productive output shall be physically comparable between the two periods, irrespective of sales.

- (g) Building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone.—
- 1. Building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department that the items have been used for the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., this exemption inures to the owner, lessee, or lessor of the rehabilitated real property located in an enterprise zone only through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive a refund pursuant to this paragraph, the owner, lessee, or lessor of the rehabilitated real property located in an enterprise zone must file an application under oath with the governing body or enterprise zone development agency having jurisdiction over the enterprise zone where the business is located, as applicable, which includes:
 - a. The name and address of the person claiming the refund.
- b. An address and assessment roll parcel number of the rehabilitated real property in an enterprise zone for which a

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refund of previously paid taxes is being sought.

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- c. A description of the improvements made to accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property.
- d. A copy of the building permit issued for the rehabilitation of the real property.
- A sworn statement, under the penalty of perjury, from the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the applicant contracted to make the improvements necessary to accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property, which statement lists the building materials used in the rehabilitation of the real property, the actual cost of the building materials, and the amount of sales tax paid in this state on the building materials. In the event that a general contractor has not been used, the applicant shall provide this information in a sworn statement, under the penalty of perjury. Copies of the invoices which evidence the purchase of the building materials used in such rehabilitation and the payment of sales tax on the building materials shall be attached to the sworn statement provided by the general contractor or by the applicant. Unless the actual cost of building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property and the payment of sales taxes due thereon is documented by a general contractor or by the applicant in this manner, the cost of such building materials shall be an amount equal to 40 percent of the increase in assessed value for ad valorem tax purposes.
- f. The identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the rehabilitated real property is located.

g. A certification by the local building code inspector that the improvements necessary to accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property are substantially completed.

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- h. Whether the business is a small business as defined by $s.\ 288.703(1)$.
- i. If applicable, the name and address of each permanent employee of the business, including, for each employee who is a resident of an enterprise zone, the identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the employee resides.
- This exemption inures to a city, county, other governmental agency, or nonprofit community-based organization through a refund of previously paid taxes if the building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone are paid for from the funds of a community development block grant, State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, or similar grant or loan program. To receive a refund pursuant to this paragraph, a city, county, other governmental agency, or nonprofit community-based organization must file an application which includes the same information required to be provided in subparagraph 1. by an owner, lessee, or lessor of rehabilitated real property. In addition, the application must include a sworn statement signed by the chief executive officer of the city, county, other governmental agency, or nonprofit community-based organization seeking a refund which states that the building materials for which a refund is sought were paid for from the funds of a community development block grant, State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, or similar grant or

loan program.

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- Within 10 working days after receipt of an application, the governing body or enterprise zone development agency shall review the application to determine if it contains all the information required pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and meets the criteria set out in this paragraph. The governing body or agency shall certify all applications that contain the information required pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and meet the criteria set out in this paragraph as eligible to receive a refund. If applicable, the governing body or agency shall also certify if 20 percent of the employees of the business are residents of an enterprise zone, excluding temporary and part-time employees. The certification shall be in writing, and a copy of the certification shall be transmitted to the executive director of the Department of Revenue. The applicant shall be responsible for forwarding a certified application to the department within the time specified in subparagraph 4.
- 4. An application for a refund pursuant to this paragraph must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the rehabilitation of the property is deemed to be substantially completed by the local building code inspector or by September 1 after the rehabilitated property is first subject to assessment.
- 5. Not more than one exemption through a refund of previously paid taxes for the rehabilitation of real property shall be permitted for any single parcel of property unless there is a change in ownership, a new lessor, or a new lessee of the real property. No refund shall be granted pursuant to this

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paragraph unless the amount to be refunded exceeds \$500. No refund granted pursuant to this paragraph shall exceed the lesser of 97 percent of the Florida sales or use tax paid on the cost of the building materials used in the rehabilitation of the real property as determined pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.e. or \$5,000, or, if no less than 20 percent of the employees of the business are residents of an enterprise zone, excluding temporary and part-time employees, the amount of refund granted pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed the lesser of 97 percent of the sales tax paid on the cost of such building materials or \$10,000. A refund approved pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days of formal approval by the department of the application for the refund. This subparagraph shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2005.

- 6. The department shall adopt rules governing the manner and form of refund applications and may establish guidelines as to the requisites for an affirmative showing of qualification for exemption under this paragraph.
- 7. The department shall deduct an amount equal to 10 percent of each refund granted under the provisions of this paragraph from the amount transferred into the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 212.20 for the county area in which the rehabilitated real property is located and shall transfer that amount to the General Revenue Fund.
- 8. For the purposes of the exemption provided in this paragraph:
 - a. "Building materials" means tangible personal property

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449 which becomes a component part of improvements to real property.

- b. "Real property" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.001(12), except that the term does not include a condominium parcel or condominium property as defined in s. 718.103.
- c. "Rehabilitation of real property" means the reconstruction, renovation, restoration, rehabilitation, construction, or expansion of improvements to real property.
- d. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.042(1).
- 9. This paragraph expires on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.
- Section 3. Section 288.0659, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 288.0659 Local Government Distressed Area Matching Grant
 Program.—
- (1) The Local Government Distressed Area Matching Grant
 Program is created within the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
 Economic Development. The purpose of the program is to stimulate investment in the state's economy by providing grants to match demonstrated business assistance by local governments to attract and retain businesses in this state.
 - (2) As used in this section, the term:
 - (a) "Local government" means a county or municipality.
- (b) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
- (c) "Qualified business assistance" means economic
 incentives provided by a local government for the purpose of
 attracting or retaining a specific business, including, but not

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limited to, suspensions, waivers, or reductions of impact fees or permit fees; direct incentive payments; expenditures for onsite or offsite improvements directly benefiting a specific business; or construction or renovation of buildings for a specific business.

(3) The office may accept and administer moneys appropriated to the office for providing grants to match expenditures by local governments to attract or retain businesses in this state.

- (4) A local government may apply for grants to match qualified business assistance made by the local government for the purpose of attracting or retaining a specific business. A local government may apply for no more than one grant per targeted business. A local government may only have one application pending with the office. Additional applications may be filed after a previous application has been approved or denied.
- (5) To qualify for a grant, the business being targeted by a local government must create at least 15 full-time jobs, must be new to this state, must be expanding its operations in this state, or would otherwise leave the state absent state and local assistance, and the local government applying for the grant must expedite its permitting processes for the target business by accelerating the normal review and approval timelines. In addition to these requirements, the office shall review the grant requests using the following evaluation criteria, with priority given in descending order:
 - (a) The presence and degree of pervasive poverty,

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unemployment, and general distress as determined pursuant to s.

290.0058 in the area where the business will locate, with

priority given to locations with greater degrees of poverty,

unemployment, and general distress.

(b) The extent of reliance on the local government expenditure as an inducement for the business's location decision, with priority given to higher levels of local government expenditure.

- (c) The number of new full-time jobs created, with priority given to higher numbers of jobs created.
- (d) The average hourly rate of wages for jobs created, with priority given to higher average wages.
- (e) The amount of capital investment to be made by the business, with priority given to higher amounts of capital investment.
- (6) In evaluating grant requests, the office shall take into consideration the need for grant assistance as it relates to the local government's general fund balance as well as local incentive programs that are already in existence.
- (7) Funds made available pursuant to this section may not be expended in connection with the relocation of a business from one community to another community in this state unless the office determines that without such relocation the business will move outside this state or determines that the business has a compelling economic rationale for the relocation which creates additional jobs. Funds made available pursuant to this section may not be used by the receiving local government to supplant matching commitments required of the local government pursuant

to other state or federal incentive programs.

- application for a grant, the office shall approve a preliminary grant allocation or disapprove the application. The preliminary grant allocation shall be based on estimates of qualified business assistance submitted by the local government and shall equal 50 percent of the amount of the estimated qualified business assistance or \$50,000, whichever is less. The preliminary grant allocation shall be executed by contract with the local government. The contract shall set forth the terms and conditions, including the timeframes within which the final grant award will be disbursed. The final grant award may not exceed the preliminary grant allocations only to the extent that funds are appropriated for such grants by the Legislature.
- (a) Preliminary grant allocations that are revoked or voluntarily surrendered shall be immediately available for reallocation.
- (b) Recipients of preliminary grant allocations shall promptly report to the office the date on which the local government's permitting and approval process is completed and the date on which all qualified business assistance are completed.
- (9) The office shall make a final grant award to a local government within 30 days after receiving information from the local government sufficient to demonstrate actual qualified business assistance. An awarded grant amount shall equal 50 percent of the amount of the qualified business assistance or

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\$50,000, whichever is less, and may not exceed the preliminary grant allocation. The amount by which a preliminary grant allocation exceeds a final grant award shall be immediately available for reallocation.

- (10) The office may retain funds, not to exceed 2 percent of the funds made available pursuant to this section, for direct administrative costs associated with this section.
- Section 4. There is appropriated for the 2010-2011 state fiscal year to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development within the Executive Office of the Governor:
- (1) The sum of \$5 million in nonrecurring general revenue and \$5 million in recurring general revenue for Space Florida to address financing, business development, and infrastructure needs to assist in the continued development of the aerospace industry in this state and management of state-of-the-art facilities for space businesses that will create high-technology, high-wage-earning jobs.
- (2) The sum of \$3.2 million in nonrecurring general revenue exclusively for Space Florida to retrain workers as the result of the retirement of the Space Shuttle Program.
- (3) The sum of \$2 million in nonrecurring general revenue to provide local government distressed area matching grants pursuant to s. 288.0659, Florida Statutes. Notwithstanding s. 216.301, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes, any funds remaining from this appropriation as of June 30, 2011, shall remain available for carrying out the purpose of s. 288.0659, Florida Statutes.
 - Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

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