

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 committee, or
 6 subcommittee thereof, within Enterprise Florida, Inc., for
 7 certain purposes; providing for committee members to serve
 8 without compensation; providing a deadline for processing
 9 applications; requiring reports to the Governor and
 10 Legislature; providing eligibility guidelines for
 11 applicants; providing for a program administrator;
 12 providing responsibilities of the program administrator;
 13 providing for program administrative costs; designating a
 14 fiduciary entity; specifying eligibility requirements;
 15 providing for awards; requiring the Office of Program
 16 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a
 17 review of the matching grant program; requiring the office
 18 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to
 19 the Governor and the Legislature; providing
 20 appropriations; 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 the 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 the rate of investment and enhancing the
59 state's 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 having no fewer 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 the application.

76 (d) Beginning December 1, 2010, and annually thereafter,
77 the committee shall transmit 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 Phase I award under the federal Small
89 Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business
90 Technology Transfer Program and have received an invitation to
91 submit an application for a Phase II award. If a Phase II award
92 has already been issued, the end date of the federal award must
93 be identified and justification must be provided as to how these
94 additional funds will enhance, not supplant, the existing award.

95 (d) Use 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. That not more than 25 percent of the project's total
101 funding is provided by the state grant.

102 (e) Conduct the project funded by the matching grant
103 program 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; and

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

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

126 (a) The committee approves the award;

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

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

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134 Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall release funds to a qualified
135 applicant upon completion of all contract requirements.

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

138 Section 2. Before the 2013 Regular Session of the
139 Legislature, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
140 Government Accountability shall conduct a review and evaluation

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141 of the effectiveness and viability of the Florida Research
142 Commercialization Matching Grant Program. The office shall
143 specifically evaluate the use of federal grants and private
144 investment and the creation of new businesses and jobs. The
145 office shall also recommend outcome measures for further
146 evaluation of the program. The office shall submit a report of
147 its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President
148 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
149 by January 1, 2013.

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

154 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.