

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; specifying procedures for processing program
 6 applications; providing eligibility guidelines for
 7 applicants; providing for a program administrator;
 8 providing responsibilities of the program administrator;
 9 providing for certain contracts; providing for program
 10 administrative costs; providing for grant awards up to a
 11 specified amount; requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to
 12 include a progress report of the program in its annual
 13 report to the Governor and Legislature; providing for
 14 expiration; providing an effective date.

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

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

20 288.9552 Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant
 21 Program.—

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

23 (a) The purpose of the Florida Research Commercialization
 24 Matching Grant Program is to increase the amount of federal
 25 funding coming to this state. By leveraging federal, state, and
 26 private-sector resources, the program intends to accelerate the
 27 innovation process and more efficiently transform research
 28 results into products in the marketplace.

29 (b) The matching grant program is specifically intended to
30 be a catalyst for small businesses that can take advantage of
31 federal and state partnerships in order to accelerate their
32 growth and market penetration by helping to overcome the funding
33 gap faced by many small businesses based in this state. Specific
34 goals and objectives of the program include:

35 1. Increasing the amount of federal research moneys
36 received by small businesses in the state through awards from
37 the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small
38 Business Technology Transfer Program of the Office of Technology
39 of the United States Small Business Administration.

40 2. Accelerating the entry of new technology-based products
41 into the marketplace.

42 3. Producing additional technology-based jobs for the
43 state.

44 4. Providing leveraged resources to increase the
45 effectiveness and success of applicants' projects.

46 5. Speeding commercialization of promising technologies.

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

49 7. Accelerating the rate of investment and enhancing the
50 state's investment infrastructure.

51 (c) The Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant
52 Program is created for the purpose of accomplishing the goals
53 and objectives specified in this section.

54 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—An application for a matching grant
55 award must be reviewed and approved or denied using the
56 procedures provided for economic development incentive

57 applications in s. 288.061.

58 (3) ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES.—A qualified applicant shall:

59 (a) Be a business entity that is registered with the
60 Secretary of State to operate in the state. The qualified
61 applicant must also have its primary office and a majority of
62 its employees domiciled in the state, and the principal research
63 activities must be conducted in the state.

64 (b) Be a small business for which a state matching grant
65 is necessary for project development and implementation.

66 (c) Have received a Phase I award under the federal Small
67 Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business
68 Technology Transfer Program and have received an invitation to
69 submit an application for a Phase II award. If a Phase II award
70 has already been issued, the end date of the federal award must
71 be identified and justification must be provided as to how these
72 additional funds will enhance, not supplant, the existing award.

73 (d) Use federal, local, and private resources to the
74 maximum extent possible. Total project funding shall
75 demonstrate:

76 1. Private-sector investments to offset the total cost of
77 the project; and

78 2. That not more than 25 percent of the project's total
79 funding is provided by the state grant.

80 (e) Conduct the project funded by the matching grant
81 program in this state.

82 (4) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—Enterprise Florida, Inc., under
83 contract with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
84 Development, shall serve as program administrator and grant

85 contract manager for recipients of the matching grants.
86 Enterprise Florida, Inc., may contract with a third party for
87 technology review and related functions for the limited purpose
88 of providing expertise in the technical review of grant
89 applications. No more than 5 percent of a legislative
90 appropriation may be used for administrative purposes.

91 (5) AWARDS.—Subject to legislative appropriations, the
92 matching grant program may make one-time awards of up to
93 \$250,000 per project to a qualified applicant.

94 (6) ANNUAL REPORT.—Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall, as
95 part of its annual report submitted pursuant to s. 288.906,
96 report on the progress of the matching grant program.

97 (7) EXPIRATION.—This section expires July 1, 2013, unless
98 reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature before that date.

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