



353708

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/21/2024	.	
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The Committee on Rules (Burgess) recommended the following:

1 **Senate Substitute for Amendment (501190) (with title**
2 **amendment)**

3
4 Delete lines 262 - 417

5 and insert:

6 Section 7. Section 288.987, Florida Statutes, is amended to
7 read:

8 288.987 Florida Defense Support ~~Task Force~~.-

9 (1) The Department of Commerce shall establish a direct-
10 support organization to support Florida's military and defense
11 industries and communities ~~The Florida Defense Support Task~~



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12 ~~Force is created.~~

13 (a) The direct-support organization is a corporation not
14 for profit, as defined in s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
15 Code, which is incorporated under chapter 617 and approved by
16 the Department of State. The direct-support organization is
17 exempt from paying filing fees under chapter 617.

18 (b) The direct-support organization shall operate under
19 contract with the department pursuant to s. 20.60. The contract
20 must provide that:

21 1. The department may review the direct-support
22 organization's articles of incorporation.

23 2. The direct-support organization shall submit an annual
24 budget proposal to the department, on a form provided by the
25 department, in accordance with department procedures for filing
26 budget proposals based on recommendations of the department.

27 3. Any funds that the direct-support organization holds in
28 trust must revert to the state upon the expiration or
29 cancellation of the contract.

30 4. The direct-support organization is subject to an annual
31 financial and performance review by the department to determine
32 whether the direct-support organization is complying with the
33 terms of the contract and is acting in a manner consistent with
34 the goals of the department and in the best interest of the
35 state.

36 (c) The department must determine and annually certify that
37 the direct-support organization is complying with the terms of
38 the contract and is doing so consistent with the goals and
39 purposes of the organization and in the best interests of the
40 state.



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41 (d) The fiscal year of the direct-support organization
42 begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the next succeeding
43 year. By August 15 of each fiscal year, the department shall
44 submit a proposed operating budget for the direct-support
45 organization to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
46 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

47 (e) The direct-support organization shall provide an annual
48 financial audit in accordance with s. 215.981.

49 (f) The direct-support organization is not an agency for
50 purposes of chapter 120; s. 215.31; chapter 216; ss. 255.21,
51 255.25, and 255.254, relating to leasing of buildings; and ss.
52 283.33 and 283.35, relating to bids for printing.

53 (g) Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce,
54 the department may allow the direct-support organization to use
55 the property, facilities, personnel, and services of the
56 department if the direct-support organization provides equal
57 employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race,
58 color, religion, sex, or national origin.

59 (2) (a) The mission of the direct-support organization ~~task~~
60 ~~force~~ is to carry out the provisions of this section, to make
61 recommendations to preserve and protect military installations,
62 to assist Florida is for Veterans, Inc., created in s. 295.21,
63 with economic and workforce development efforts in military
64 communities, to conduct planning and research and development to
65 support military missions, businesses, and military families ~~to~~
66 ~~support the state's position in research and development related~~
67 ~~to or arising out of military missions and contracting, and to~~
68 improve the state's military-friendly environment for
69 servicemembers, military dependents, military retirees, and



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70 businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to the
71 state.

72 (b) The direct-support organization is organized and
73 operated to request, receive, hold, invest, and administer
74 property and to manage and make expenditures related to its
75 mission and for joint planning with host communities to
76 accommodate military missions and prevent base encroachment,
77 advocacy on the state's behalf with federal civilian and
78 military officials, promotion of the state to military and
79 related contractors and employers, and support of economic and
80 product research and development activities of the defense
81 industry.

82 (c) As necessary and requested by Florida is for Veterans,
83 Inc., the direct-support organization may undertake such
84 activities that assist the corporation with job training and
85 placement for military spouses in communities with high
86 proportions of active duty military personnel. As necessary and
87 requested by the Department of Education, school districts, or
88 Florida state colleges and universities, the direct-support
89 organization may undertake such activities that assist in
90 providing a smooth transition for dependents of military
91 personnel and other military students. The direct-support
92 organization is intended to complement but may not supplant the
93 activities of other state entities.

94 (3) The direct-support organization shall be governed by a
95 board of directors.

96 (a) The board of directors is composed of the Governor, or
97 his or her designee, and the following members ~~task force shall~~
98 ~~be comprised of the Governor or his or her designee, and 12~~



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99 ~~members~~ appointed as follows:

100 1.~~(a)~~ Four members appointed by the Governor.

101 2.~~(b)~~ Four members appointed by the President of the
102 Senate.

103 3.~~(c)~~ Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
104 Representatives.

105 (b)~~(d)~~ Appointed members must represent defense-related
106 industries or communities that host military bases and
107 installations. All appointments in place as of July 1, 2024,
108 must continue in effect until the expiration of the term ~~must be~~
109 ~~made by August 1, 2011.~~ Members shall serve for a term of 4
110 years, ~~with the first term ending July 1, 2015. However, if~~
111 ~~members of the Legislature are appointed to the task force,~~
112 ~~those members shall serve until the expiration of their~~
113 ~~legislative term and may be reappointed once.~~ A vacancy shall be
114 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same
115 manner as the initial appointment. ~~All members of the council~~
116 ~~are eligible for reappointment.~~

117 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
118 House of Representatives shall each appoint a current member of
119 their respective chambers who shall serve ex officio, nonvoting.
120 An appointed Senator or Representative shall serve until the
121 expiration of the member's legislative term and may be
122 reappointed once. An appointed Senator or Representative A
123 ~~member who serves in the Legislature~~ may participate in all
124 direct-support organization ~~task force~~ activities but may not
125 ~~only vote on matters that are advisory.~~

126 (d)~~(4)~~ The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
127 House of Representatives shall each designate one of their



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128 appointees under paragraph (b) to serve as chair of the direct-
129 support organization ~~task force~~. The chair shall serve a 2-year
130 term, rotating on December 1 of each even-numbered year ~~rotate~~
131 each ~~July 1~~. The appointee designated by the President of the
132 Senate shall serve as initial chair. If the Governor, instead of
133 his or her designee, participates in the activities of the
134 direct-support organization ~~task force~~, then the Governor shall
135 serve as chair.

136 (e) ~~(5)~~ The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or
137 his or her designee, shall serve as the ex officio, nonvoting
138 executive director of the direct-support organization ~~task~~
139 ~~force~~.

140 (f) The Executive Director of Florida Department of
141 Veterans' Affairs and the Adjutant General of the Florida
142 National Guard, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio,
143 nonvoting members of the direct-support organization.

144 (g) Any employees and appointed board members, in their
145 capacity of service on the board, are not public employees for
146 the purposes of chapter 110 or chapter 112, except that such
147 employees and appointed board members of the corporation are
148 subject to the provisions of s. 112.061, related to
149 reimbursement for travel and per diem exempts incurred while
150 performing duties, and part III of chapter 112. Otherwise, each
151 member of the board of directors shall serve without
152 compensation.

153 (4) ~~(6)~~ The direct-support organization ~~task force~~ shall
154 submit an annual ~~progress report and work plan~~ to the Governor,
155 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
156 Representatives each November 1, which may be submitted as a



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157 supplement report with the annual report of the department
158 pursuant to s. 20.60 February 1.

159 (5) The direct-support organization, in the performance of
160 its duties, may:

161 (a) Make and enter into contracts and assume such other
162 functions as are necessary to carry out the mission of the
163 direct-support organization and its contract with the
164 department, provided that any such contracts and assumptions are
165 not inconsistent with this section or any other applicable
166 provision of law governing the direct-support organization. A
167 proposed contract with a total cost of \$750,000 or more is
168 subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s.
169 216.177. If the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget
170 Commission, or the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
171 the House of Representatives, timely advise the direct-support
172 organization in writing that such proposed contract is contrary
173 to legislative policy and intent, the direct-support
174 organization may not enter into such proposed contract. The
175 direct-support organization may not divide one proposed contract
176 with a total cost of \$750,000 or more into multiple contracts to
177 circumvent the requirements of this paragraph.

178 (b) Establish grant programs and administer grant awards to
179 support its mission. The direct-support organization must
180 publicly adopt guidelines and application procedures and must
181 publish such guidelines, application procedures, and awards on
182 its website. The direct-support organization may assist the
183 department as requested and necessary with any statutorily
184 established grants or other programs, but may not administer
185 such grants on behalf of the department.



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186 ~~(7) The department shall support the task force and~~
187 ~~contract with the task force for expenditure of appropriated~~
188 ~~funds, which may be used by the task force for economic and~~
189 ~~product research and development, joint planning with host~~
190 ~~communities to accommodate military missions and prevent base~~
191 ~~encroachment, advocacy on the state's behalf with federal~~
192 ~~civilian and military officials, assistance to school districts~~
193 ~~in providing a smooth transition for large numbers of additional~~
194 ~~military-related students, job training and placement for~~
195 ~~military spouses in communities with high proportions of active~~
196 ~~duty military personnel, and promotion of the state to military~~
197 ~~and related contractors and employers. The task force may~~

198 (c) Annually spend up to \$250,000 of funds appropriated to
199 the department for the direct-support organization task force
200 for staffing and administrative expenses of the direct-support
201 organization task force, including travel and per diem costs
202 incurred by task force members who are not otherwise eligible
203 for state reimbursement.

204 (6) This section is repealed October 1, 2029, unless
205 reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

206 Section 8. Section 288.102, Florida Statutes, is created to
207 read:

208 288.102 Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program.-

209 (1) The Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program is created
210 within the department to fund, subject to appropriation by the
211 legislature, proposed projects that support supply chain
212 innovation.

213 (2) The department shall accept applications from ports
214 listed in s. 311.09(1); class I, II, or III freight railroads;



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215 public airports as defined in s. 330.27; and intermodal
216 logistics centers or inland ports as defined in s. 311.101(2).

217 (3) (a) The department shall collaborate with the Department
218 of Transportation review applications submitted and select
219 projects for awards that create strategic investments in
220 infrastructure to increase capacity and address freight mobility
221 to meet the economic development goals of the state.

222 (b) Priority must be given to projects with innovative
223 plans, advanced technologies, and development strategies that
224 focus on future growth and economic prosperity of the supply
225 chain across the state.

226 (c) The department, in consultation with the Department of
227 Transportation, must adopted selection criteria that includes,
228 but is not limited to, consideration of the project's:

229 1. Consistency with plans and studies produced by the
230 department, the Department of Transportation, or another state
231 entity.

232 2. Direct increase efficiency in the delivery of goods.

233 3. Improvement of freight mobility access while reducing
234 congestion. This may include overnight truck parking at rest
235 areas, weigh stations, and intermodal logistics centers.

236 4. Increase of fuel storage and distribution capacity
237 across the state, including, but not limited to, petroleum,
238 hydrogen, ethanol, and natural gas located at seaports and
239 spaceports.

240 5. Ability to secure a sustainable logistics transportation
241 network throughout this state.

242 6. Development of connections to multimodal transportation
243 systems.



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244 7. Ability to address emerging supply chain and
245 transportation industry challenges.

246 (d) A public or private entity seeking to develop and
247 establish vertiports in this state may also apply to the
248 department for funding. For purposes of this subsection, the
249 term "vertiport" means a system or infrastructure with
250 supporting services and equipment used for landing, ground
251 handling, and takeoff of manned or unmanned vertical takeoff and
252 landing (VTOL) aircraft.

253 (4) A minimum of a one-to-one match of nonstate resources,
254 including local, federal, or private funds, to the state
255 contribution is required. An award may not be made for a project
256 that is receiving or using state funding from another state
257 source or statutory program, including tax credits. The one-to-
258 one match requirement is waived for a public entity located in
259 fiscally constrained county as defined in s. 218.67(1).

260 (5) Projects may apply for funding for capital expenditures
261 and operations but funding awarded under this section may not be
262 used to pay salary and benefits or general business or office
263 expenses. A project may not be awarded the entirety of any
264 appropriation in a fiscal year.

265 (6) The Department of Transportation and the Department of
266 Commerce shall jointly select projects for award. Grants awarded
267 under this program shall be administered by the department.

268 (7) The Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the
269 Department of Transportation, shall annually provide a list of
270 each project awarded, the benefit of each project toward meeting
271 the goals and objectives of the program, and the current status
272 of each project. The department shall include such information



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273 in its annual incentives report required under s. 20.0065.

274 (8) The department may adopt rules to implement this
275 section.

276 (9) This section expires June 30, 2034.

277 Section 9. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
278 288.0001, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

279 288.0001 Economic Development Programs Evaluation.—The
280 Office of Economic and Demographic Research and the Office of
281 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)
282 shall develop and present to the Governor, the President of the
283 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
284 chairs of the legislative appropriations committees the Economic
285 Development Programs Evaluation.

286 (2) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research and
287 OPPAGA shall provide a detailed analysis of economic development
288 programs as provided in the following schedule:

289 (e) By January 1, 2027, and every 3 years thereafter, an
290 analysis of the Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program
291 established under s. 288.102.

292
293 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

294 And the title is amended as follows:

295 Delete line 39

296 and insert:

297 future repeal; creating s. 288.102, F.S.; creating the
298 Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program within the
299 Department of Commerce; providing the purpose of the
300 program; requiring the Department of Commerce and the
301 Department of Transportation to consider applications



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302 and select grant awardees; requiring each award made
303 to be matched by private funds; providing selection
304 criteria; defining the term "vertiport"; authorizing
305 the Department of Commerce to adopt rules; requiring a
306 report; providing for expiration; amending s.
307 288.0001, F.S.; requiring review of the Supply Chain
308 Innovation Grant Program Office of Economic and
309 Demographic Research and the Office of Program Policy
310 Analysis and Government Accountability; amending s.
311 445.003, F.S.; revising the