



501190

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 275 - 417

and insert:

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

288.987 Florida Defense Support ~~Task Force~~.—

(1) The Department of Commerce shall establish a direct-support organization to support Florida's military and defense industries and communities ~~The Florida Defense Support Task Force is created.~~



501190

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40       (d) The fiscal year of the direct-support organization



501190

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

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

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

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

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



501190

70 state.

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

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

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

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



501190

99            1.(a) Four members appointed by the Governor.

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

102           3.(e) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
103 Representatives.

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

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

125           (d)(4) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
126 House of Representatives shall each designate one of their  
127 appointees under paragraph (b) to serve as chair of the direct-



501190

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

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

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

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

152 (4) ~~(6)~~ The direct-support organization ~~task force~~ shall  
153 submit an annual ~~progress report and work plan~~ to the Governor,  
154 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
155 Representatives each November 1, which may be submitted as a  
156 supplement report with the annual report of the department



501190

157 pursuant to s. 20.60 February 1.

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

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

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

185 ~~(7) The department shall support the task force and~~



501190

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

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

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

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

207 288.102 Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program.—

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

212 (2) The department shall accept applications from ports  
213 listed in s. 311.09(1); class I, II, or III freight railroads;  
214 public airports as defined in s. 330.27; and intermodal





501190

215 logistics centers or inland ports as defined in s. 311.101(2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

243 7. Ability to address emerging supply chain and



501190

244 transportation industry challenges.

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

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

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

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

267 (7) The Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the  
268 Department of Transportation, shall annually provide a list of  
269 each project awarded, the benefit of each project toward meeting  
270 the goals and objectives of the program, and the current status  
271 of each project. The department shall include such information  
272 in its annual incentives report required under s. 20.0065.



501190

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

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

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

278           288.0001 Economic Development Programs Evaluation.—The  
279 Office of Economic and Demographic Research and the Office of  
280 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)  
281 shall develop and present to the Governor, the President of the  
282 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
283 chairs of the legislative appropriations committees the Economic  
284 Development Programs Evaluation.

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

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

291  
292 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

293 And the title is amended as follows:

294           Delete line 39

295 and insert:

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



501190

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