

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [CS/HB 335](#)

TITLE: Spaceport Operations

SPONSOR(S): Kendall and Duggan

COMPANION BILL: [SB 916](#) (Mayfield)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: [SB 916](#) (Mayfield)

Committee References

[Economic Infrastructure](#)

17 Y, 0 N, As CS



[Transportation & Economic
Development Budget](#)



[Commerce](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill provides that authority over operational oversight, management, and day-to-day administration of each spaceport in Florida is vested in the spaceport's director or commander and requires each spaceport to develop and maintain an operational governance plan consistent with Space Florida's statewide strategic plan. The bill requires each spaceport to maintain an updated list of spaceport site readiness development projects and specifies the types of projects to be included on the list. Additionally, the bill defines the term "quintimodal transportation hub" and requires Space Florida to enhance and promote development and use of such hubs in Florida.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

Spaceport and Space Florida Powers and Duties

The bill distinguishes the authority of individual [spaceports](#) in relation to [Space Florida](#)'s authority. In particular, the bill provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of Space Florida's governing statutes, authority over the operational oversight, management, and day-to-day administration of each spaceport shall be vested in the spaceport director or commander¹ for that facility. The bill prohibits Space Florida from exercising direct control over local operational decisions unless specifically requested in writing by the spaceport director or commander or required to comply with applicable federal law or regulation. The bill provides that these terms do not diminish Space Florida's authority to finance, lease, or own spaceport facilities or to coordinate economic development initiatives across multiple [spaceport territories](#). Further, the bill specifies that Space Florida is responsible for statewide strategic planning, financing, economic development, and intergovernmental coordination. (Sections [1](#) and [3](#))

The bill requires each spaceport to develop and maintain an operational governance plan consistent with Space Florida's statewide strategic plan. Each spaceport must submit its plan annually to Space Florida. The bill provides that these operational governance plans are not subject to approval by Space Florida. (Section [3](#))

The bill also requires each spaceport to maintain an updated list of spaceport site readiness development projects consistent with its operational governance plan and with Space Florida's [spaceport master plan](#). The bill specifies

¹ The bill defines "spaceport director or commander" to mean "the individual designated by the governing body, agency, or military authority of a spaceport territory to administer the operations, maintenance, safety, and local agreements of that facility."

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that the projects to be included on this list include, but are not limited to, utility and commodity supply extension, transportation infrastructure expansion, environmental reviews, and similar activities that, if completed, will support the future expansion of spaceport operations and related space and hypersonic industry activities, such as payload processing, manufacturing, and testing. Each spaceport must submit its project list annually to Space Florida. (Section [3](#))

Quintimodal Transportation Hubs

The bill requires Space Florida, in coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOT), metropolitan planning organizations, and local governments, to enhance and promote the development and use of [quintimodal transportation hubs](#) in this state. The bill defines a quintimodal transportation hub as a spaceport territory within which interconnected transportation facilities are available to move people or property by means of road, railroad, airport, seaport, and spaceport facilities. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#))

The bill updates cross references to conform to the provisions of the bill. (Sections [4](#), [5](#), [6](#))

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Space Florida

The Legislature passed the Space Florida Act in 2006,² which consolidated Florida's three existing space entities – Florida Space Authority, Florida Space Research Institute, and Florida Aerospace Finance Corporation – into a single entity called Space Florida.³ Space Florida is established as an independent special district, a body politic and corporate, and a subdivision of the state.⁴ Space Florida is subject to the provisions of the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, which governs issues like operations, financial reporting, taxation, assessments, elections, compliance with general law, and comprehensive planning.⁵

Space Florida's objectives include supporting the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry in Florida.⁶ Space Florida acts as Florida's point of contact for state aerospace-related activities with federal agencies, the military, state agencies, businesses, and the private sector.⁷ Space Florida is authorized to purchase or construct facilities, set rates, fees, and charges for the use of facilities, undertake joint financing with municipalities or private sector entities, and execute contracts with persons or spaceport users to facilitate the financing, construction, leasing, or sale of any project.⁸

Powers and Duties of Space Florida

Florida law provides certain powers to Space Florida, including, but not limited to:⁹

- Using a corporate seal;
- Using patents, copyrights, and trademarks;
- Lending and investing money;
- Acquiring certain properties;

² [Ch. 2006-60, Laws of Fla.](#)

³ See [ss. 331.301 through 331.371, F.S.](#)

⁴ S. [331.302\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁵ S. [331.302\(5\), F.S.](#)

⁶ S. [331.302\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁷ S. [331.3011\(3\), F.S.](#)

⁸ S. [331.305, F.S.](#)

⁹ *Id.*

- Executing contracts;
- Issuing revenue bonds;
- Making expenditures for entertainment and travel expenses and business clients, guests, and other authorized persons; and
- Fixing and collecting fees, loan payments, rental payments, and other charges in connection with financing agreements.

Florida law also gives Space Florida certain duties, including, but not limited to, creating a business plan, entering into agreements and cooperating with other state agencies, and consulting with appropriate federal agencies.¹⁰ Specifically, Space Florida is required to:

- Enter into agreements with the Department of Education, DOT, the Department of Commerce, and CareerSource Florida.¹¹
- In cooperation with the Department of Commerce, collaborate to develop a plan to retain, expand, attract, and create aerospace industry entities, public or private, which results in the creation of high-value-added businesses and jobs in Florida.¹²
- Develop, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, a plan to provide financing assistance to aerospace businesses.¹³
- Carry out its responsibilities for spaceport operations by:¹⁴
 - Seeking federal support and developing partnerships to renew and upgrade the infrastructure and technologies at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the John F. Kennedy Space Center, and the Eastern Range.
 - Supporting federal efforts to clarify roles and responsibilities of federal agencies in an effort to streamline access for commercial launch users.
 - Pursuing the development of commercial spaceports in the state in partnership with counties or municipalities, the Federal Government, or private entities.
 - Promoting and facilitating launch activity within the state by supporting and assisting the efforts of commercial launch operators to obtain authorization from federal agencies for launching from Florida.
 - Consulting, as necessary, with the appropriate federal, state, and local authorities, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, DOT, Florida National Guard, and industry on establishing and operating spaceport infrastructure and facilities in the state.

Board of Directors

The Space Florida board of directors is comprised of nine voting members and three ex officio, nonvoting members. The governor (or designee of the governor) serves ex officio as the chair and a voting member of the board and appoints five additional voting board members with experience in the aerospace industry, bond finance, a relevant academic field, or other specified airport or aircraft operations. The remainder of the voting board members consists of the Secretary of Transportation, one member appointed by the President of the Senate, and one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The governor selects the three ex officio, nonvoting members of the board, which consist of a representative of the [Jacksonville Aviation Authority](#), a representative of the [Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority](#), and an employee or official of a port district or port authority.¹⁵

Spaceport Planning

¹⁰ [S. 331.3051, F.S.](#)

¹¹ [S. 331.3051\(2\), F.S.](#)

¹² [S. 331.3051\(3\), F.S.](#)

¹³ [S. 331.3051\(6\), F.S.](#)

¹⁴ [S. 331.3051\(7\), F.S.](#)

¹⁵ [S. 331.3081, F.S.](#)

Space Florida must develop a spaceport master plan for expansion and modernization of space transportation facilities within spaceport territories. The plan must contain recommended projects to meet current and future commercial, national, and state space transportation requirements. Further, the plan must identify appropriate funding levels and include recommendations on appropriate sources of revenue that may be developed to contribute to the State Transportation Trust Fund.

Space Florida must submit the spaceport master plan to any appropriate metropolitan planning organization for review of intermodal impacts and to DOT for inclusion in its five-year work program of qualifying aerospace discretionary capacity improvement projects. Subject to availability of appropriated funds, DOT may participate in the capital cost of such projects.

Spaceports in Florida

Under Florida law, a spaceport is defined as any area of land or water developed by Space Florida and intended for public use or for the launching, takeoff, and landing of spacecraft and aircraft, including any appurtenant areas which are used or intended for public use, for spaceport buildings, or for other spaceport facilities, spaceport projects, or rights-of-way.¹⁶ Florida law designates certain real property within the state as “[spaceport territory](#),”¹⁷ including Cape Canaveral Spaceport in Brevard County, Cecil Spaceport in Duval County, Eglin Air Force Base in Okaloosa County, Cape San Blas in Gulf County, Space Coast Regional Airport and Spaceport in Brevard County, Homestead Air Reserve Base in Miami-Dade County, and Tyndall Air Force Base in Bay County.¹⁸

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for licensing launch and reentry operations at commercial spaceports.¹⁹ An FAA license is not required for space activities that the federal government carries out for its own purposes, such as some NASA or U.S. Department of Defense launches.²⁰ Currently, three Florida spaceports are licensed by the FAA. The Cape Canaveral Spaceport is licensed by the FAA for vertical and horizontal launch and for reentry operations.²¹ [Cecil Spaceport, operated by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority](#), and [Space Coast Spaceport, operated by the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority](#), are licensed by the FAA for horizontal launch operations.²²

Quinti-modal Transportation Hubs

Brevard County hosts the world’s only quinti-modal transportation hub, providing access to five modes of transportation: space, air, rail, sea, and road.²³

¹⁶ [S. 331.303\(17\), F.S.](#)

¹⁷ [S. 331.304, F.S.](#)

¹⁸ Space Florida, *Spaceport System Territory*, <https://www.spaceflorida.gov/spaceport-system-territory> (last visited Jan. 17, 2026).

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, *Commercial Space Transportation Activities*, <https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/commercial-space-transportation-activities> (last visited Jan. 17, 2026).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, *Spaceports by State*, https://www.faa.gov/space/spaceports_by_state#fl_sflc (last visited Jan. 17, 2026).

²² *Id.*

²³ NASA, Partnerships, *Partnering with Kennedy Space Center*, <https://public.ksc.nasa.gov/partnerships/partnering-with-ksc/benefits-of-partnership/five-modes-of-transportation/> (last visited Jan. 17, 2026).

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #/SUBJECT	HOUSE/SENATE SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2023	CS/HB 7041 - Space Florida	Sirois, Duggan	Became law on July 1, 2023
2024	CS/SB 968 - Spaceport Territory	<i>Calatayud</i>	Became law on July 1, 2024

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N, As CS	1/20/2026	Keating	Ray
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<p>Required each spaceport to maintain an updated list of spaceport site readiness development projects consistent with its operational governance plan and with Space Florida's spaceport master plan and specified the types of projects to be included on the list.</p> <p>Removed provisions of the bill that made representatives of the Jacksonville Aviation Authority and the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority voting members of Space Florida's board of directors.</p>			
Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee				
Commerce Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
