

CS/HB 451 — Space Florida

by the Economic Development Policy Committee, Rep. Crisfulli, and others (CS/CS/SB 2606 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, Commerce Committee, and Senator Constantine)

Space Florida is responsible for promoting the development of a sustainable aerospace industry, space infrastructure, and educational opportunities for people interested in working in the space and aerospace industry.

This bill terminates the existing board of directors of Space Florida 90 days after the law takes effect. The initial appointments of new members and Senate confirmations of the appointments must occur within 91 days of the law taking effect. New appointees will have interim status pending the next-called meeting of the Senate.

The bill reduces the number of ex officio voting members from 5 to 4 by removing the State Commissioner of Education, and requires the Lieutenant Governor to serve as the designee of the Governor. Designees of ex officio members are given the authority to vote. Further, the bill reduces the number of members appointed by the Governor from 12 to 9.

The bill also makes a number of changes to the composition of the board. Briefly, the board's composition will be:

- As voting members:
 - The Governor or the Lieutenant Governor, who will serve as chair;
 - The Secretary of the Department of Transportation, or designee;
 - The President of Workforce Florida, Inc., or designee;
 - The President of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or designee;
 - Nine private-sector members, representing the following sectors, and appointed by the Governor:
 - One person representing organized labor with experience in the aerospace industry;
 - Two persons from the state's aerospace companies;
 - Two persons from two separate commercial aerospace companies involved in human space flight programs or commercial to space;
 - Two persons representing two separate commercial companies working under federal contracts to conduct space-related business;
 - One person representing an alternative energy enterprise with potential for aerospace application; and
 - One person representing the aerospace industry whose primary client is the U.S. Department of Defense.
- As non-voting members, a state senator appointed by the President of the Senate and a state representative appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The nine appointees must have “demonstrated knowledge and experience in the field of aerospace or have experience which is directly applicable to the state's aerospace endeavors.” In making these appointments, the Governor is directed to consider whether the membership reflects the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity, as well as the geographic distribution, of

Florida's population. Additionally, all voting members must be residents of the state or have a business enterprise in Florida. Designees of the appointed members representing the private-sector do not have voting authority, while the Lieutenant Governor and designees of agency members may vote.

The bill does not alter the powers and duties of the board, nor does it impact the scope of Space Florida's rule-making authority.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 114-0