

CS/HB 969 — Space and Aerospace Infrastructure

by the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee, Rep. Crisafulli, and others. (CS/CS/SB 1776 by Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee, Commerce Committee, and Senator Altman)

Chapter 2008-152, L.O.F., provided Space Florida with \$14.5 million to renovate one of its launch complexes for commercial spaceflight customers, SLC-36. Approximately \$10.8 million of that appropriation remained unspent in 2010, and the proviso language associated with that appropriation prevented Space Florida from using the funds for other infrastructure improvements.

This bill provides flexibility for Space Florida to spend the remainder of the 2008 appropriation on the following purposes:

- Improving other launch complexes and space transportation facilities to attract new space vehicle testing and launch businesses to Florida;
- Addressing intermodal requirements and impacts of the launch ranges, spaceports, and other space transportation facilities to meet current and future needs of U.S. commercial space transportation industry;
- Advancing aerospace technology to meet the current and future needs of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry; and
- Assisting in the development of joint-use facilities and technology that support aviation and aerospace operations, including high-altitude and suborbital flights and range technology development.

Nearly identical language also passed in the 2010-2011 General Appropriations Act, in CS/SB 1752, and CS/CS/HB 1389.

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

Vote: Senate 33-0; House 110-0