

CS/CS/HB 1389 — Space and Aerospace Infrastructure

by the Finance & Tax Council, the Economic Development Policy Committee, Rep. Crisafulli, and others (CS/CS/SB 2500 by the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee, the Commerce Committee, and Senator Altman)

This bill, known as the “Space Transition and Revitalization Act,” modifies the Quick Action Closing Fund (QAC) statute to emphasize the importance of the transition from the end of the space shuttle program, and caps at 20 percent the amount of QAC funds appropriated by the Legislature that may be awarded to projects that retain or create high-technology jobs directly associated with development of a diverse aerospace economy in Florida.

The bill also allows for the waiver of QAC eligibility criteria, such as the wage requirement or the required minimum \$5 to \$1 return on investment, for projects that help mitigate the adverse economic impacts associated with the 2010 retirement of the Space Shuttle Program.

Finally, the bill provides flexibility for Space Florida to spend the remainder of a 2008 appropriation for improvements at Space Launch Complex 36, at Kennedy Space Center, for the following additional 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 the 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 section 72 of the 2010-2011 General Appropriations Act, in CS/SB 1752, and CS/HB 969.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 115-0