

Committee on Commerce and Tourism

SB 996 — OGSR/Scripps Florida Funding Corporation

by Commerce and Tourism Committee

In 2003, the Legislature appropriated \$310 million for the California-based Scripps Research Institute (SRI) to open a Florida research facility (Scripps Florida), the Legislature also created the Scripps Florida Funding Corporation (the Funding Corporation) to release the funds to Scripps Florida according to a 20-year agreement. Additionally, the Legislature created public records and public meeting exemptions for certain records and information provided by SRI or Scripps Florida to the Funding Corporation. These exemptions are codified in s. 288.9551, F.S., which is set to expire on October 2, 2014.

The bill repeals the public records and public meetings exemptions in s. 288.9551, F.S., because the Funding Corporation has indicated that it operates in the sunshine and does not receive such confidential and exempt information.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 110-0