LEGISLATIVE ACTION Senate House Comm: RCS 03/23/2015

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development (Latvala) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

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Delete line 886

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and insert:

5 Section 13. Present subsection (6) of section 288.061, 6 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), and a new

process.-

288.061 Economic development incentive application

(6) (a) The department is authorized to execute contracts

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- 11 and agreements that obligate the state to make payments from 12 appropriations in the current or a future fiscal year for incentive programs specified in this paragraph. The total amount 13 14 of actual or projected funds approved for payment by the 15 department based on actual project performance and the schedule 16 of payments for each incentive contract or agreement may not 17 exceed a combined total of \$50 million in any fiscal year for 18 all of the following:
 - 1. The Local Government Distressed Area Matching Grant Program established under s. 288.0659.
 - 2. The qualified defense contractor and space flight business tax refund program established under s. 288.1045.
 - 3. The qualified target industry businesses tax refund program established under s. 288.106.
 - 4. The brownfield redevelopment bonus refund program established under s. 288.107.
 - 5. The high-impact business performance grant program established under s. 288.108.
 - 6. The Quick Action Closing Fund projects established under s. 288.1088, with the exception of those projects with funds held in escrow as of June 30, 2015, which are being paid out of the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account under s. 288.095.
 - 7. The Innovation Incentive Program established under s. 288.1089.
 - (b) The funding limitation under paragraph (a) may only be waived by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act or other legislation.
 - (c) The department shall provide notice, including an updated description and evaluation, to the Legislature upon the

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final execution of each contract or agreement.

(d) By January 2 of each year, the department shall provide to the Legislature a list of projected payments for the following fiscal year and, by March 1 of each year, the department shall provide to the Legislature a list of claims actually filed for payment in the following fiscal year. The department may not make a scheduled payment under a contract or agreement for a given fiscal year until the department has validated that the applicant has met the performance requirements of the contract or agreement. The department may only make payments to the applicant and not to a third party. Any funds appropriated for scheduled payments in a fiscal year which are unexpended by June 30 of that year shall revert in accordance with s. 216.301 and may not be transferred to an escrow account.

(e) The Legislature shall annually appropriate in the General Appropriations Act an amount estimated to be sufficient to satisfy scheduled payments in the coming fiscal year. If the amount appropriated by the Legislature proves insufficient to satisfy the scheduled payments, the department shall pay the unfunded claims from the appropriation for the next fiscal year. By March 1 of each year, the department shall notify the legislative appropriations committees of any such anticipated shortfall for the current fiscal year and of the amount it estimates will be needed to pay claims during the next fiscal year.

Section 14. Section 288.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.095 Economic Development Trust Fund.-

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- (1) The Economic Development Trust Fund is created within the Department of Economic Opportunity. Moneys deposited into the fund must be used only to support the authorized activities and operations of the department. Moneys credited to the trust fund consist of local financial support funds; funds transferred from Enterprise Florida, Inc., which were held in an escrow account on June 30, 2015, for an approved Quick Action Closing Fund project; and interest earnings.
- (2) There is created, within the Economic Development Trust Fund, the Economic Development Incentives Account. The Economic Development Incentives Account consists of moneys transferred from local governments as local financial support appropriated to the account for purposes of the tax incentives programs authorized under ss. 288.1045, and 288.106, and 288.107 local financial support provided under ss. 288.1045 and 288.106. Moneys in the Economic Development Incentives Account may be used only to pay tax refunds and make other payments authorized under s. 288.1045, s. 288.106, or s. 288.107, and may only be expended pursuant to Legislative appropriation or an approved amendment to the department's operating budget pursuant to chapter 216. Notwithstanding s. 216.301, and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the account at the end of a fiscal year remains in the account and is available for carrying out the purposes of the account shall be subject to the provisions of s. 216.301(1)(a).
- (3) (a) There is created, within the Economic Development Trust Fund, the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account. The Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account consists of moneys transferred from Enterprise Florida, Inc., which were held in an



escrow account on June 30, 2015, for approved Quick Action 99 Closing Fund contracts or agreements. Moneys in the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account may be used only for the purpose of 100 101 making payments authorized under s. 288.1088 for projects 102 authorized by these contracts or agreements. A continuing 103 appropriation category shall be established to make payments 104 from the account. If an approved Quick Action Closing Fund 105 project is terminated, the department shall submit a budget amendment to place the budget authority associated with the 106 107 terminated award into reserve. The funds associated with the 108 terminated award shall immediately revert to the State Economic 109 Enhancement and Development Trust Fund. The continuing 110 appropriation category expires on June 30, 2029. 111 (b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301, and pursuant to s. 216.351, 112 any balance in the account at the end of a fiscal year remains 113 in the account and is available for carrying out the purposes of 114 the account. Any interest earnings in the account revert to the 115 State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund on June 30 116 of each fiscal year. The Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow 117 Account expires on June 30, 2029, and any funds remaining in the 118 account shall revert to the State Economic Enhancement and 119 Development Trust Fund. The department may approve applications 120 for certification pursuant to ss. 288.1045(3) and 288.106. 121 However, the total state share of tax refund payments may not 122 exceed \$35 million. 123 (b) The total amount of tax refund claims approved for 124 payment by the department based on actual project performance 125 may not exceed the amount appropriated to the Economic 126 Development Incentives Account for such purposes for the fiscal

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year. Claims for tax refunds under ss. 288.1045 and 288.106 shall be paid in the order the claims are approved by the department. In the event the Legislature does not appropriate an amount sufficient to satisfy the tax refunds under ss. 288.1045 and 288.106 in a fiscal year, the department shall pay the tax refunds from the appropriation for the following fiscal year. By March 1 of each year, the department shall notify the legislative appropriations committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of any anticipated shortfall in the amount of funds needed to satisfy claims for tax refunds from the appropriation for the current fiscal year. (c) Moneys in the Economic Development Incentives Account

may be used only to pay tax refunds and make other payments authorized under s. 288.1045, s. 288.106, or s. 288.107.

(4) (d) The department may adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection, including rules providing for the use of moneys in the Economic Development Incentives Account and for the administration of the Economic Development Incentives Account and the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account.

Section 15. By July 10, 2015, Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall transfer any funds held in an escrow account on June 30, 2015, for approved Quick Action Closing Fund contracts or agreements to the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account within the Economic Development Trust Fund.

Section 16. Paragraphs (a), (c), (e), and (f) of subsection (2), paragraph (h) of subsection (3), and paragraph (e) of subsection (5) of section 288.1045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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288.1045 Qualified defense contractor and space flight business tax refund program.-

- (2) GRANTING OF A TAX REFUND; ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS.-
- (a) There shall be allowed, from the Economic Development Trust Fund, a refund to a qualified applicant for the amount of eligible taxes certified by the department which were paid by such qualified applicant. The total amount of refunds for all fiscal years for each qualified applicant shall be determined pursuant to subsection (3). The annual amount of a refund to a qualified applicant shall be determined pursuant to subsection **(5)**.
- (c) Contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature, The department may not approve not more in tax refunds than the amount appropriated to the Economic Development Trust Fund for tax refunds, for a fiscal year than the amount specified in s. 288.061 pursuant to subsection (5) and s. 288.095.
- (e) After entering into a tax refund agreement pursuant to subsection (4), a qualified applicant may:
- 1. Receive refunds from the account for corporate income taxes due and paid pursuant to chapter 220 by that business beginning with the first taxable year of the business which begins after entering into the agreement.
- 2. Receive refunds from the account for the following taxes due and paid by that business after entering into the agreement:
- a. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions paid pursuant to chapter 212.
- b. Intangible personal property taxes paid pursuant to chapter 199.



- c. Excise taxes paid on documents pursuant to chapter 201.
- d. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1)(a) on June 1, 1996.
- e. State communications services taxes administered under chapter 202. This provision does not apply to the gross receipts tax imposed under chapter 203 and administered under chapter 202 or the local communications services tax authorized under s. 202.19.

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However, a qualified applicant may not receive a tax refund pursuant to this section for any amount of credit, refund, or exemption granted such contractor for any of such taxes. If a refund for such taxes is provided by the department, which taxes are subsequently adjusted by the application of any credit, refund, or exemption granted to the qualified applicant other than that provided in this section, the qualified applicant shall reimburse the department Economic Development Trust Fund for the amount of such credit, refund, or exemption. A qualified applicant must notify and tender payment to the department within 20 days after receiving a credit, refund, or exemption, other than that provided in this section.

- (f) Any qualified applicant who fraudulently claims this refund is liable for repayment of the refund to the department Economic Development Trust Fund plus a mandatory penalty of 200 percent of the tax refund which shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. Any qualified applicant who fraudulently claims this refund commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 - (3) APPLICATION PROCESS; REQUIREMENTS; AGENCY



DETERMINATION. -

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- (h) The department may not certify any applicant as a qualified applicant when the value of tax refunds to be included in that letter of certification exceeds the available amount of authority to certify a new business in any fiscal year businesses as determined pursuant to s. 288.061(6) in s. 288.095(3). A letter of certification that approves an application must specify the maximum amount of a tax refund that is to be available to the contractor for each fiscal year and the total amount of tax refunds for all fiscal years.
 - (5) ANNUAL CLAIM FOR REFUND.-
- (e) The total amount of tax refunds approved by the department under this section in any fiscal year may not exceed the amount authorized under s. 288.061(6) s. 288.095(3).

Section 17. Paragraph (k) of subsection (2), paragraphs (a), (d), (e), and (g) of subsection (3), paragraph (e) of subsection (4), and paragraphs (d) and (g) of subsection (6) of section 288.106, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.106 Tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses.

- (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:
- (k) "Local financial support exemption option" means the option to exercise an exemption from the local financial support requirement available to an any applicant whose project is located in a brownfield area, a rural city, or a rural community. Any applicant that exercises this option is not eligible for more than 80 percent of the total tax refunds allowed such applicant under this section.
 - (3) TAX REFUND; ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS.-

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- (a) There shall be allowed, from the account, a refund to a qualified target industry business for the amount of eligible taxes certified by the department that were paid by the business. The total amount of refunds for all fiscal years for each qualified target industry business must be determined pursuant to subsection (4). The annual amount of a refund to a qualified target industry business must be determined pursuant to subsection (6).
- (d) After entering into a tax refund agreement under subsection (5), a qualified target industry business may:
- 1. Receive refunds from the account for the following taxes due and paid by that business beginning with the first taxable year of the business that begins after entering into the agreement:
 - a. Corporate income taxes under chapter 220.
 - b. Insurance premium tax under s. 624.509.
- 2. Receive refunds from the account for the following taxes due and paid by that business after entering into the agreement:
- a. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions under chapter 212.
 - b. Intangible personal property taxes under chapter 199.
 - c. Excise taxes on documents under chapter 201.
 - d. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1).
- e. State communications services taxes administered under chapter 202. This provision does not apply to the gross receipts tax imposed under chapter 203 and administered under chapter 202 or the local communications services tax authorized under s. 202.19.
 - (e) However, a qualified target industry business may not

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receive a refund under this section for any amount of credit, refund, or exemption previously granted to that business for any of the taxes listed in paragraph (d). If a refund for such taxes is provided by the department, which taxes are subsequently adjusted by the application of any credit, refund, or exemption granted to the qualified target industry business other than as provided in this section, the business shall reimburse the department account for the amount of that credit, refund, or exemption. A qualified target industry business shall notify and tender payment to the department within 20 days after receiving any credit, refund, or exemption other than one provided in this section.

- (q) A qualified target industry business that fraudulently claims a refund under this section:
- 1. Is liable for repayment of the amount of the refund to the department account, plus a mandatory penalty in the amount of 200 percent of the tax refund which shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
- 2. Commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 - (4) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.-
- (e) The department may not certify any target industry business as a qualified target industry business if the value of tax refunds to be included in that letter of certification exceeds the available amount of authority to certify a new business in any fiscal year businesses as determined pursuant to s. 288.061(6) in s. 288.095(3). However, Except as provided in paragraph (2)(k), if the commitments of local financial support represent less than 20 percent of the eligible tax refund

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payments, or to otherwise preserve the viability and fiscal integrity of the program, the department may certify a qualified target industry business to receive tax refund payments of less than the allowable amounts specified in paragraph (3)(b). A letter of certification that approves an application must specify the maximum amount of tax refund that will be available to the qualified industry business in each fiscal year and the total amount of tax refunds that will be available to the business for all fiscal years.

- (6) ANNUAL CLAIM FOR REFUND.-
- (d) A tax refund may not be approved for a qualified target industry business unless the required local financial support has been paid into the account for that refund. Except as provided in paragraph (2)(k), if the local financial support provided is less than 20 percent of the approved tax refund, the tax refund must be reduced. In no event may the tax refund exceed an amount that is equal to 5 times the amount of the local financial support received. Further, funding from local sources includes any tax abatement granted to that business under s. 196.1995 or the appraised market value of municipal or county land conveyed or provided at a discount to that business. The amount of any tax refund for such business approved under this section must be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement granted or the value of the land granted, and the limitations in subsection (3) and paragraph (4)(e) must be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement or the value of the land granted. A report listing all sources of the local financial support shall be provided to the department when such support is paid to the account.

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(q) The total amount of tax refund claims approved by the department under this section in any fiscal year may must not exceed the amount authorized under s. 288.061(6) s. 288.095(3).

Section 18. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (d), (e), and (i) of subsection (4) of section 288.107, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.107 Brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds.-

- (2) BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT BONUS REFUND. Bonus refunds shall be approved by the department as specified in the final order and allowed from the account as follows:
- (a) A bonus refund of \$2,500 shall be allowed to any qualified target industry business as defined in s. 288.106 for each new Florida job created in a brownfield area eligible for bonus refunds which is claimed on the qualified target industry business's annual refund claim authorized in s. 288.106(6).
- (b) A bonus refund of up to \$2,500 shall be allowed to any other eligible business as defined in subparagraph (1)(d)2. for each new Florida job created in a brownfield area eligible for bonus refunds which is claimed under an annual claim procedure similar to the annual refund claim authorized in s. 288.106(6). The amount of the refund shall be equal to 20 percent of the average annual wage for the jobs created.
 - (4) PAYMENT OF BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT BONUS REFUNDS.-
- (d) After entering into a tax refund agreement as provided in s. 288.106 or other similar agreement for other eligible businesses as defined in paragraph (1)(e), an eligible business may receive brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds from the account pursuant to s. 288.106(3)(d).
 - (e) An eligible business that fraudulently claims a refund



under this section:

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- 1. Is liable for repayment of the amount of the refund to the department account, plus a mandatory penalty in the amount of 200 percent of the tax refund, which shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
- 2. Commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (i) The total amount of the bonus refunds approved by the department under this section in any fiscal year may must not exceed the total amount specified in s. 288.061(6) appropriated to the Economic Development Incentives Account for this purpose for the fiscal year. In the event that the Legislature does not appropriate an amount sufficient to satisfy projections by the department for brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds under this section in a fiscal year, the department shall, not later than July 15 of such year, determine the proportion of each brownfield redevelopment bonus refund claim which shall be paid by dividing the amount appropriated for tax refunds for the fiscal year by the projected total of brownfield redevelopment bonus refund claims for the fiscal year. The amount of each claim for a brownfield redevelopment bonus tax refund shall be multiplied by the resulting quotient. If, after the payment of all such refund claims, funds remain in the Economic Development Incentives Account for brownfield redevelopment tax refunds, the department shall recalculate the proportion for each refund claim and adjust the amount of each claim accordingly.

Section 19. Subsection (4) of section 288.108, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.108 High-impact business.-

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(4) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE QUALIFIED HIGH-IMPACT BUSINESS PERFORMANCE GRANTS.-

(a) The total amount of active performance grants scheduled for payment by the department in any single fiscal year may not exceed the amount specified in s. 288.061(6) lesser of \$30 million or the amount appropriated by the Legislature for that fiscal year for qualified high-impact business performance grants. If the scheduled grant payments are not made in the year for which they were scheduled in the qualified high-impact business agreement and are rescheduled as authorized in paragraph (3) (e), they are, for purposes of this paragraph, deemed to have been paid in the year in which they were originally scheduled in the qualified high-impact business agreement.

(b) If the Legislature does not appropriate an amount sufficient to satisfy the qualified high-impact business performance grant payments scheduled for any fiscal year, the department shall, not later than July 15 of that year, determine the proportion of each grant payment which may be paid by dividing the amount appropriated for qualified high-impact business performance grant payments for the fiscal year by the total performance grant payments scheduled in all performance grant agreements for the fiscal year. The amount of each grant scheduled for payment in that fiscal year must be multiplied by the resulting quotient. All businesses affected by this calculation must be notified by August 1 of each fiscal year. If, after the payment of all the refund claims, funds remain in the appropriation for payment of qualified high-impact business performance grants, the department shall recalculate the



417 proportion for each performance grant payment and adjust the 418 amount of each claim accordingly. Section 20. Subsection (4) of section 288.1088, Florida 419 420 Statutes, is amended to read: 421 288.1088 Quick Action Closing Fund.-422 (4) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for purposes of implementing this section shall be placed in reserve and may 423 424 only be released pursuant to the legislative consultation and review requirements set forth in this section. 425 426 Section 21. Subsection (2) of section 288.1201, Florida 427 Statutes, is amended to read: 428 288.1201 State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust 429 Fund. 430 (2) The trust fund is established for use as a depository 431 for funds to be used for the purposes specified in subsection 432 (1). Moneys to be credited to the trust fund shall consist of 433 documentary stamp tax proceeds as specified in law, local 434 financial support funds, interest earnings, reversions specified 435 in law, and cash advances from other trust funds. Funds shall be 436 expended only pursuant to legislative appropriation or an 437 approved amendment to the department's operating budget pursuant 438 to the provisions of chapter 216. 439 Section 22. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015. 440 441 ======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========== 442 And the title is amended as follows: 443 Delete lines 140 - 141 444 and insert:

report to certain persons; amending s. 288.061, F.S.;

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authorizing the department to execute specified contracts and agreements from current or future fiscal year appropriations for specified incentive programs; prohibiting the total amount of actual or projected funds approved for a specified payment by the department from exceeding a specified amount in any fiscal year for certain programs; providing that the specified funding limitation may only be waived by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act or other legislation; requiring the department to provide specified notice to the Legislature upon the final execution of each contract or agreement; requiring the department to provide to the Legislature a list of projected payments for the following fiscal year and a list of claims actually filed for payment in the following fiscal year by specified dates; prohibiting the department from making a scheduled payment under a contract or agreement for a given fiscal year until the department has validated that the applicant has met the performance requirements of the contract or agreement; providing that the department may only make payments to the applicant; providing for reversion of specified funds that are unexpended by a specified date in a fiscal year; requiring the Legislature to annually appropriate in the General Appropriations Act an amount estimated to sufficiently satisfy scheduled payments in a fiscal year; requiring the department to pay unfunded claims if the amount appropriated by the Legislature proves insufficient to satisfy the

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scheduled payments in a fiscal year; requiring the department to notify the legislative appropriations committees of any anticipated shortfall for the current fiscal year and of the amount it estimates will be needed to pay claims during the next fiscal year; amending s. 288.095, F.S.; providing that moneys credited to the Economic Development Trust Fund consist of specified funds and interest earnings; restricting the use of moneys in the Economic Development Incentives Account; providing that any balance in the account at the end of the fiscal year remains in the account and is available for carrying out the purposes of the account; creating the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account within the Economic Development Trust Fund; restricting the use of moneys in the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account; providing for the establishment of a continuing appropriation category to make payments from the account; requiring the department to submit a specified budget amendment in certain circumstances; requiring the reversion of specified funds to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund in certain circumstances; establishing an expiration date for the continuing appropriation category; providing for reversion of specified funds to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund in certain circumstances; providing that any balance in the account at the end of the fiscal year remains in the account and is available for carrying out the

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purposes of the account; providing for the reversion of any interest earnings in the account to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund on a specified date of each fiscal year; providing for expiration of the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account and reversion of the funds remaining in the account; authorizing the department to adopt rules; requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to transfer any funds held in an escrow account for approved Quick Action Closing Fund contracts or agreements to the Quick Action Closing Fund Escrow Account within the Economic Development Trust Fund by a specified date; amending s. 288.1045, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; prohibiting the department from certifying any applicant as a qualified applicant in certain circumstances; amending ss. 288.106, 288.107, 288.108, 288.1088, and 288.1201, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.