

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

[2006h1237.hms.doc]

BILL: HB 1237, Engrossed 1 (CS/CS/SB 2084)

INTRODUCER: Rep. Mealor and others (Education Appropriations Committee, Commerce and Consumer Services Committee, and Senators Alexander, King, Klein, Crist and Lynn)

SUBJECT: Advanced Science and Technology Research

PREPARED BY: Senate Education Committee

DATE: May 5, 2006

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1—951129 to Senate Amendment 1—154926 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 creates the State University System Research and Economic Development Investment Program to provide matching funds to eligible institutions to construct and acquire research facilities and specialized equipment to support research, foster economic development, and accelerate Florida's innovation economy. Eligibility criteria for the investment program are established at Level 1 and Level 2. A university may not participate in Level 1 and Level 2 simultaneously. To be eligible for Level 1 funding, a university must:

- Award more than 250 nonprofessional doctoral degrees;
- Have more than 200 postdoctoral appointees in science and engineering;
- Have an undergraduate graduation rate of 40 percent or higher;
- Expend at least \$100 million from externally awarded contracts and grants;
- Have a record of securing patents and licenses leading to products in the marketplace over the past 5 years;
- Have at least 75 percent of the freshman class eligible to receive Bright Futures Scholarships; and
- Be classified as a research university with very high research activity according to the 2005 Carnegie Classifications.

To be eligible for Level 2 funding, a university must:

- Expend at least \$100 million from externally awarded contracts and grants;
- Have a record of securing patents and licenses leading to products in the marketplace over the past 5 years;
- Have at least 75 percent of the freshman class eligible to receive Bright Futures Scholarships; and
- Be classified as a research university with very high research activity according to the 2005 Carnegie Classifications.

Under these criteria, Florida State University and the University of Florida would qualify for Level 1 funding and the University of South Florida would qualify for Level 2 funding.

The amendment removes the Senate amendment's appropriation with the exception of the appropriation to the University of South Florida. In its place, the amendment appropriates \$95 million from nonrecurring general revenue to the Board of Governors of the State University System for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the following purposes:

- \$20 million for the 21st Century World Class Scholars Program;
- \$30 million to the Centers of Excellence Program;
- \$36.5 million for funding level 1 of the State University System Research and Economic Development Investment Program; and
- \$8.5 million for funding level 2 of the State University System Research and Economic Development Investment Program.

The amendment also appropriates \$5 million to the State Board of Education for 2006-2007 for the Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program for Community Colleges to match donations for scholarships for first-generation-in-college students.

The amendment retains the appropriation of \$8 million to the University of South Florida for 2006-2007 for enhancing graduate programs.