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CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Floor: 2/AD/3R
4/30/2008 10:41 AM

Senator Saunders moved the following amendment:

Senate Amendment

Delete line(s) 6201-6281

and insert:

Section 108. Section 1004.648, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.648 Florida Energy Systems Consortium.--

(1) There is created the Florida Energy Systems Consortium to promote collaboration among experts in the State University System for the purposes of sharing energy-related expertise and assisting in the development and implementation of a comprehensive, long-term, environmentally compatible, sustainable, and efficient energy strategic plan for the state.

(2) The consortium shall focus on the research and development of innovative energy systems that will lead to

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17 alternative energy strategies, improved energy efficiencies, and
18 expanded economic development for the state.

19 (3) The consortium shall consist of the state universities
20 as identified under s. 1000.21(6).

21 (4) The consortium shall be administered at the University
22 of Florida by a director who shall be appointed by the President
23 of the University of Florida.

24 (5) The director, whose office shall be located at the
25 University of Florida, shall report to the Florida Energy and
26 Climate Commission created pursuant to s. 377.6015.

27 (6) The oversight board shall consist of the Vice President
28 for Research or other appropriate representative appointed by the
29 university president of each member of the consortium.

30 (7) The oversight board shall be responsible for the
31 technical performance and financial management of the consortium.

32 (8) In performing its responsibilities, the consortium
33 shall collaborate with the oversight board and may also
34 collaborate with industry and other affected parties.

35 (9) Through collaborative research and development across
36 the State University System and the industry, the goal of the
37 consortium is to become a world leader in energy research,
38 education, technology, and energy systems analysis. In so doing,
39 the consortium shall:

40 (a) Coordinate and initiate increased collaborative
41 interdisciplinary energy research among the universities and the
42 energy industry.

43 (b) Assist in the creation and development of a Florida-
44 based energy technology industry through efforts that would
45 expedite commercialization of innovative energy technologies by
46 taking advantage of the energy expertise within the State

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47 University System, high-technology incubators, industrial parks,
48 and industry-driven research centers.

49 (c) Provide a state resource for objective energy systems
50 analysis.

51 (d) Develop education and outreach programs to prepare a
52 qualified energy workforce and informed public. Specifically, the
53 faculty associated with the consortium shall coordinate a
54 statewide workforce development initiative focusing on college-
55 level degrees, technician training, and public and commercial
56 sectors awareness. The consortium shall develop specific programs
57 targeted at preparing graduates who have a background in energy,
58 continuing education courses for technical and nontechnical
59 professionals, and modules, laboratories, and courses to be
60 shared among the universities. Additionally, the consortium shall
61 work with the Florida Community College System using the Florida
62 Advanced Technological Education Center for the coordination and
63 design of industry-specific training programs for technicians.

64 (10) The consortium shall solicit and leverage state,
65 federal, and private funds for the purpose of conducting
66 education, research, and development in the area of sustainable
67 energy.

68 (11) The oversight board, in consultation with the Florida
69 Energy and Climate Commission, shall ensure that the consortium:

70 (a) Maintains accurate records of any funds received by the
71 consortium.

72 (b) Meets financial and technical performance expectations,
73 which may include external technical reviews as required.

74 (12) The steering committee shall consist of the university
75 representatives included in the Centers of Excellence proposals
76 for the Florida Energy Systems Consortium and the Center of

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77 Excellence in Ocean Energy Technology-Phase II which were
78 reviewed during the 2007-2008 fiscal year by the Florida
79 Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board created in s.
80 1004.226(4); a university representative appointed by the
81 President of Florida International University; and the Florida
82 Energy and Climate Commission. The steering committee shall be
83 responsible for establishing and ensuring the success of the
84 consortium's mission under subsection (9).

85 (13) By November 1 of each year, the consortium shall
86 submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of the
87 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
88 Florida Energy and Climate Commission regarding its activities,
89 including, but not limited to, education and research related to,
90 and the development and deployment of, alternative energy
91 technologies.