By the Committee on Commerce; and Senator Ring

A bill to be entitled

577-03419-09

1

20091644c1

2 An act relating to economic development; creating the 3 "Micro-Targeted Technology Commercialization Act"; 4 providing that the purpose of the act is to promote 5 the commercialization of certain technologies by 6 startup and early stage companies in this state; 7 amending s. 213.053, F.S.; authorizing the Department 8 of Revenue to share certain confidential information 9 with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic 10 Development; amending s. 220.02, F.S.; adding the tax 11 credits available under s. 220.194, F.S., to the list 12 of credits which may be taken against state corporate 13 income tax; amending s. 220.13, F.S.; redefining the 14 term "adjusted federal income" to prohibit a seller 15 from deducting from his or her taxable income any net 16 operating loss transferred pursuant to the act; 17 amending s. 220.16, F.S.; providing for allocation of 18 specified nonbusiness income to the state; creating s. 19 220.194, F.S.; creating the Micro-Targeted Technology 20 Commercialization Credit Transfer Program; providing 21 intent, goals, and objectives; providing definitions; 22 requiring that the Institute for the Commercialization 23 of Public Research identify examples of micro-targeted technology and compile a list of the technology for 24 25 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic 26 Development; requiring the office to certify eligible 27 companies for the transfer of corporate income tax net 28 operating loss amounts as certified credits; providing 29 qualifications and an application process and

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30	requirements; requiring an application fee; providing
31	for an application deadline; requiring the office to
32	grant or deny an application within a specified time
33	after receiving a completed application; providing for
34	calculating the certified credit amount; providing a
35	maximum amount that may be transferred; providing a
36	penalty; requiring each certified company to file an
37	annual report with the office; requiring the office
38	and the Department of Revenue to adopt rules; creating
39	s. 288.95, F.S.; creating the Micro-Targeted
40	Technology Commercialization Assistance Grant Program;
41	providing intent, goals, and objectives of the grant
42	program; directing the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
43	Economic Development to manage the grant program;
44	directing the Florida Institute for the
45	Commercialization of Public Research to review grant
46	applications and submit recommendations to the Office
47	of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;
48	specifying eligibility requirements for grants;
49	specifying the grant amount; detailing the permissible
50	uses of the grant funds; requiring the Office of
51	Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to prepare an
52	annual report; providing rulemaking authority;
53	directing the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
54	Government Accountability to review the program and
55	prepare a report; providing an appropriation;
56	providing for an allocation of the funds; providing
57	for future repeal of the credit transfer program and
58	the grant program; providing an effective date.

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59	
60	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
61	
62	Section 1. Short title.—This act may be cited as the
63	"Micro-Targeted Technology Commercialization Act."
64	Section 2. Legislative purpose.—The purpose of this act is
65	to promote the commercialization of certain technologies by
66	startup and early stage Florida companies, and to create high-
67	wage jobs in these industry sectors. The act creates two
68	financial mechanisms to promote commercialization efforts: a net
69	operating loss credit transfer program and a commercialization
70	grant program.
71	Section 3. Paragraph (z) is added to subsection (8) of
72	section 213.053, Florida Statutes, to read:
73	213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing
74	(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,
75	the department may provide:
76	(z) Information relative to tax credits taken under s.
77	220.194 to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
78	Development.
79	
80	Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be
81	pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director
82	and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental,
83	shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as
84	the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a
85	misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s.
86	775.082 or s. 775.083.
87	Section 4. Subsection (8) of section 220.02, Florida

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88	Statutes, is amended to read:
89	220.02 Legislative intent
90	(8) It is the intent of the Legislature that credits
91	against either the corporate income tax or the franchise tax be
92	applied in the following order: those enumerated in s. 631.828,
93	those enumerated in s. 220.191, those enumerated in s. 220.181,
94	those enumerated in s. 220.183, those enumerated in s. 220.182,
95	those enumerated in s. 220.1895, those enumerated in s. 221.02,
96	those enumerated in s. 220.184, those enumerated in s. 220.186,
97	those enumerated in s. 220.1845, those enumerated in s. 220.19,
98	those enumerated in s. 220.185, those enumerated in s. 220.187,
99	those enumerated in s. 220.192, <del>and</del> those enumerated in s.
100	220.193, and those enumerated in s. 220.194.
101	Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
102	220.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
103	220.13 "Adjusted federal income" defined
104	(1) The term "adjusted federal income" means an amount
105	equal to the taxpayer's taxable income as defined in subsection
106	(2), or such taxable income of more than one taxpayer as
107	provided in s. 220.131, for the taxable year, adjusted as
108	follows:
109	(b) Subtractions
110	1. There shall be subtracted from such taxable income:
111	a. The net operating loss deduction allowable for federal
112	income tax purposes under s. 172 of the Internal Revenue Code
113	for the taxable year,
114	b. The net capital loss allowable for federal income tax
115	purposes under s. 1212 of the Internal Revenue Code for the
116	taxable year,

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117	c. The excess charitable contribution deduction allowable
118	for federal income tax purposes under s. 170(d)(2) of the
119	Internal Revenue Code for the taxable year, and
120	d. The excess contributions deductions allowable for
121	federal income tax purposes under s. 404 of the Internal Revenue
122	Code for the taxable year, except that any net operating loss
123	transferred pursuant to s. 220.194 may not be deducted by the
124	<u>seller</u> .
125	
126	However, a net operating loss and a capital loss shall never be
127	carried back as a deduction to a prior taxable year, but all
128	deductions attributable to such losses shall be deemed net
129	operating loss carryovers and capital loss carryovers,
130	respectively, and treated in the same manner, to the same
131	extent, and for the same time periods as are prescribed for such
132	carryovers in ss. 172 and 1212, respectively, of the Internal
133	Revenue Code.
134	2. There shall be subtracted from such taxable income any
135	amount to the extent included therein the following:
136	a. Dividends treated as received from sources without the
137	United States, as determined under s. 862 of the Internal
138	Revenue Code.
139	b. All amounts included in taxable income under s. 78 or s.
140	951 of the Internal Revenue Code.
141	
142	However, as to any amount subtracted under this subparagraph,
143	there shall be added to such taxable income all expenses
144	deducted on the taxpayer's return for the taxable year which are
145	attributable, directly or indirectly, to such subtracted amount.

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577-03419-09 20091644c1 146 Further, no amount shall be subtracted with respect to dividends 147 paid or deemed paid by a Domestic International Sales 148 Corporation. 149 3. In computing "adjusted federal income" for taxable years 150 beginning after December 31, 1976, there shall be allowed as a 151 deduction the amount of wages and salaries paid or incurred 152 within this state for the taxable year for which no deduction is 153 allowed pursuant to s. 280C(a) of the Internal Revenue Code 154 (relating to credit for employment of certain new employees). 155 4. There shall be subtracted from such taxable income any 156 amount of nonbusiness income included therein, including 157 payments received for a certified tax credit pursuant to s. 158 220.194. 159 5. There shall be subtracted any amount of taxes of foreign 160 countries allowable as credits for taxable years beginning on or after September 1, 1985, under s. 901 of the Internal Revenue

161 162 Code to any corporation which derived less than 20 percent of 163 its gross income or loss for its taxable year ended in 1984 from sources within the United States, as described in s. 164 165 861(a)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, not including credits 166 allowed under ss. 902 and 960 of the Internal Revenue Code, 167 withholding taxes on dividends within the meaning of subsubparagraph 2.a., and withholding taxes on royalties, interest, 168 169 technical service fees, and capital gains.

170 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, except
171 with respect to amounts subtracted pursuant to subparagraphs 1.
172 and 3., any increment of any apportionment factor which is
173 directly related to an increment of gross receipts or income
174 which is deducted, subtracted, or otherwise excluded in

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175	determining adjusted federal income shall be excluded from both
176	the numerator and denominator of such apportionment factor.
177	Further, all valuations made for apportionment factor purposes
178	shall be made on a basis consistent with the taxpayer's method
179	of accounting for federal income tax purposes.
180	Section 6. Subsection (5) is added to section 220.16,
181	Florida Statutes, to read:
182	220.16 Allocation of nonbusiness incomeNonbusiness income
183	shall be allocated as follows:
184	(5) The amount of financial assistance received in exchange
185	for transferring a net operating loss as authorized by s.
186	220.194 is allocable to this state.
187	Section 7. Section 220.194, Florida Statutes, is created to
188	read:
189	220.194 Micro-Targeted Technology Commercialization Credit
190	Transfer Program; transfer of net loss carryforward as a
191	certified credit
192	(1) PURPOSE; GOALS AND OBJECTIVESIt is the intent of the
193	Legislature that the Micro-Targeted Technology Commercialization
194	Credit Transfer Program act as a catalyst for eligible companies
195	to accelerate their revenue and job growth and their market
196	penetration by monetizing their net operating losses into
197	transferable credits. The program's objectives include:
198	(a) Accelerating the entry of new technology-based products
199	into the marketplace;
200	(b) Producing additional technology-based jobs for this
201	state;
202	(c) Accelerating commercialization of micro-targeted
203	technologies in the biomedical and technical fields; and

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204	(d) Encouraging the growth of high-quality, high-wage
205	biomedical and technology firms in this state.
206	(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in ss. 220.194 and 220.195, the
207	term:
208	(a) "Certified credit" means the product of the net
209	operating loss generated in the current year apportioned to
210	Florida, multiplied by the corporate income tax rate imposed
211	during the year in which the loss occurred.
212	(b) "Certified micro-targeted technology company" means a
213	business entity that is registered with the Secretary of State,
214	is currently operating in this state, and is certified by the
215	office to trade certified credits based on their net operating
216	losses, pursuant to this section.
217	(c) "Department" means the Department of Revenue.
218	(d) "Institute" means the Institute for the
219	Commercialization of Public Research.
220	(e) "Micro-targeted technology" means individual
221	components, technology, or processes that are crucial to the
222	development of larger or more complex biomedical or
223	technological devices, processes, or information systems.
224	(f) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
225	Economic Development.
226	(3) THE INSTITUTE FOR THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF PUBLIC
227	RESEARCHThe Institute for the Commercialization of Public
228	Research or other Florida research-based consortium shall
229	identify examples of micro-targeted technology and compile a
230	list that is updated annually to add new technologies or delete
231	those technologies that are no longer applicable. The office
232	shall adopt this list as a rule.

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233	(4) QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION A company seeking to
234	transfer a certified credit shall be certified as a qualified
235	micro-targeted technology company by the office if it timely
236	files a completed application and meets the requirements of this
237	subsection. For purposes of this subsection, all conditions in
238	paragraphs (a) through (g) must be met no later than the date
239	the application is filed with the office. All other requirements
240	in this subsection must be satisfied before the company received
241	certified credits. In order to be certified, a micro-targeted
242	technology company shall demonstrate that:
243	(a) It is registered with the Secretary of State to operate
244	in this state, and is operating in Florida.
245	(b) It is primarily engaged in developing, manufacturing,
246	producing, or providing micro-targeted technology for commercial
247	or public purposes.
248	(c) It has fewer than 100 full-time, worldwide employees,
249	including full-time employees leased to the applicant, of which
250	at least 75 percent work full time in this state at the time the
251	transfer of certified credits is first allowed.
252	(d) It has been audited by an independent certified public
253	accountant and:
254	1. The company has not had positive net income in any of
255	the 2 previous years of ongoing operations;
256	2. The company has reported a net operating loss in any of
257	the 2 previous years of operation; and
258	3. The company is not at least 50 percent owned or
259	controlled, directly or indirectly, by another corporation that
260	has demonstrated positive net income in any of the 2 previous
261	years of ongoing operations, or is not part of a consolidated

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262	group of affiliated corporations, as filed for federal income
263	tax purposes, which in the aggregate demonstrated positive net
264	income in any of the 2 previous years of ongoing operations.
265	(e) The company has at least one active application for a
266	patent under 35 U.S.C. s. 111(a) on file with the United States
267	Patent and Trademark Office.
268	(f) The company has received research grants from
269	governmental entities, foundations, or other private entities,
270	or received financial assistance from investors.
271	(g) The company has an established business plan that
272	describes its commercialization strategy, a business-development
273	plan that includes revenue projections and a strategy for
274	becoming profitable, and a timeline for development which
275	addresses revenue growth and job creation in this state.
276	(h) The company can certify that:
277	1. It will not transfer a certified credit in exchange for
278	private financial assistance in an amount that is less than 75
279	percent of the certified credit;
280	2. All proceeds from the transfer will be expended to
281	support the operation or expansion of the company's business
282	activity in this state; and
283	3. Upon transfer of a certified credit, it shall notify the
284	office of the amount within 30 days after each certified credit
285	is transferred, the amount of the financial compensation for the
286	credit received, and the identity of the purchaser of the
287	certified credit.
288	(5) APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
289	(a) A completed application must be filed with the office
290	on or after 2 p.m., on the first business day of July commencing

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291	in 2009. The office may investigate the qualifications of each
292	company applicant and may require by rule the applicant to
293	provide such evidence of its qualification as is necessary to
294	assure compliance with the requirements of this section,
295	including, but not limited to, the state corporate income tax
296	return supporting the request for certification of a certified
297	credit, audited financial statements, federal tax returns, and
298	state and federal employment filings.
299	(b) The office shall require a nonrefundable application
300	fee of \$100 per application submitted. The department shall
301	cooperate with the office in its review of the applications.
302	(c) The office shall grant or deny an application in full
303	or in part within 90 days after receiving a completed
304	application containing the necessary information, including
305	payment of the application fee. If the office denies any part of
306	the application, it shall inform the applicant of the grounds
307	for the denial.
308	(d) This section does not create a presumption that a
309	company applicant will be approved by the office to transfer its
310	certified credits. However, the office may issue a nonbinding
311	opinion letter, upon the request of a prospective applicant, as
312	to its eligibility and the potential amount of certified credits
313	available.
314	(6) CALCULATION OF CERTIFIED CREDIT TRANSFER AMOUNT AND
315	LIMITATIONSWhen submitting an application for certification, a
316	company shall state the amount of the net operating loss,
317	including any net operating loss carryover, it requests to be
318	transferred as a certified credit. To the extent allowed as a
319	deduction in this state, a reported net operating loss not

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349	may it be reported later than 1 year after the date of transfer.
350	(b) In the event the certified credit is larger than the
351	amount owed the state on the tax return for the time period in
352	which the credit is claimed, after applying the other credits
353	and unused credit carryovers in the order provided in s.
354	220.02(8), the amount of the credit for that time period shall
355	be the amount owed the state on that tax return. Unused
356	certified credit amounts remaining may not be carried forward.
357	(c) The purchaser of a certified credit amount may not
358	further sell, or otherwise transfer, the certified credit
359	amount.
360	(d) It is the responsibility of the certified micro-
361	targeted technology company that transferred the certified
362	credit amount to notify the office, within 30 days after
363	transfer, of the amount of each certified credit transferred,
364	the amount of the financial assistance received, and the
365	identity of the purchaser of the certified credit. The office
366	shall certify to the department the same information within 14
367	working days.
368	(8) REPORTING REQUIREMENTEach company that is certified
369	to transfer its certified credit must provide the office with an
370	annual report on its development covering the year after it has
371	received funds from transferring its certified credits. The
372	report must include the company's commercialization strategy;
373	business development plan; timeline for development; actual
374	revenue and revenue projections, both total and within Florida
375	only; and actual employment and employment projections, both
376	total and within Florida only. The report is due January 3 each
377	applicable year.

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378	(9) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY
379	(a) The office shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)
380	and 120.54 to administer this section. The rules must establish
381	the criteria for qualified technology research and experimental
382	development, production, or provision of technology for
383	commercial or public purposes; the format of application forms;
384	and the procedures to implement the program.
385	(b) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss.
386	120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section.
387	Section 8. Section 288.95, Florida Statutes, is created to
388	read:
389	288.95 Micro-Targeted Technology Commercialization
390	Assistance Grant Program
391	(1) INTENT; GOALS AND OBJECTIVES; CREATION OF PROGRAM
392	(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Micro-
393	Targeted Technology Commercialization Assistance Grant Program
394	act as a catalyst for eligible startup companies to accelerate
395	their growth and market penetration using state grant funds to
396	help pay certain operating expenditures.
397	(b) The grant program's objectives include:
398	1. Accelerating the entry of new technology-based products
399	into the marketplace;
400	2. Producing additional technology-based jobs for this
401	state;
402	3. Providing leveraged resources to increase the
403	effectiveness and success of applicants' projects;
404	4. Accelerating commercialization of micro-targeted
405	technologies in the biomedical and technical fields; and
406	5. Encouraging the establishment and growth of high-

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407	quality, high-wage advanced biomedical and technology firms in
408	this state.
409	(2) ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES A qualified applicant must:
410	(a) Be a company specializing in micro-targeted technology
411	which is registered with the Secretary of State to operate in
412	this state;
413	(b) Conduct its business activities in this state;
414	(c) Have fewer than 25 full-time, worldwide employees,
415	including full-time employees leased to the applicant, of which
416	at least 75 percent are domiciled in this state;
417	(d) Have at least one active application for a patent under
418	35 U.S.C. s. 111(a) filed with the United States Patent and
419	Trademark Office;
420	(e) Have received research grants or other financial
421	assistance from governmental entities, foundations, and other
422	private entities or investors, which in total at least equals
423	the amount of the grant being requested through this program;
424	(f) Have been selected to receive state university research
425	commercialization assistance grant funding, pursuant to s.
426	1004.226, which will be considered for the list of qualified
427	technologies;
428	(g) Have an executed agreement with the licensing
429	institution; and
430	(h) Have an established business plan that describes its
431	commercialization strategy, a business development plan that
432	includes revenue projections and a strategy for becoming
433	profitable, and a timeline for development that addresses
434	revenue growth and job creation in this state.
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436	Each company receiving funding must provide the institute and
437	the office an annual report on its development since being
438	awarded the grant. The report must include the company's
439	commercialization strategy; business development plan; timeline
440	for development; actual revenue and revenue projections, both
441	total and within Florida only; and actual employment and
442	employment projections, both total and within Florida only. The
443	report is due on the anniversary date of when the company
444	received its grant.
445	(3) GRANT SELECTION PROCESS AND ADMINISTRATION
446	(a) The office shall provide administrative support to the
447	institute, as needed, for the twice-yearly issuance of an open
448	call for grant applications, for providing blank application
449	forms, and for receiving and processing the applications for
450	review.
451	(b) The office shall collect and provide to the institute
452	all grant applications within 15 days after the posted submittal
453	deadline date.
454	(c) The board of directors of the institute shall review
455	all grant applications received and, based on the eligibility
456	guidelines in subsection (3), submit a list of recommended grant
457	recipients to the office for its final approval. An application
458	must be recommended for approval or be denied by the institute's
459	board within 45 days after receiving the application. The total
460	amount of grants recommended for disbursal to eligible companies
461	may not exceed \$4.5 million in any one year.
462	(d) The executive director of the office shall review the
463	institute's list of recommended grant recipients, and must
464	approve or deny the individual recommendations. The executive

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465	director's decisions must be made within 30 days after receiving
466	the list of recommendations from the institute.
467	(e) This section does not create a presumption that an
468	applicant will be approved by the office to receive a grant.
469	However, the office may issue a nonbinding opinion letter, upon
470	the request of a prospective applicant, as to its eligibility
471	for a grant and the potential amount of the grant.
472	(f) Grant awards shall be disbursed twice yearly to
473	recipient companies.
474	(4) AWARDSThe office may make a one-time award of up to
475	\$500,000 to a qualified applicant. Disbursal of grant awards
476	shall be within 45 days after the office's final approval of
477	grant applications.
478	(5) USE OF GRANT FUNDSGrant funds shall be used by a
479	recipient to pay only wages, rent, and other operating expenses,
480	and to purchase equipment and supplies necessary to its
481	business. Grant funds may not be used to retire company debt.
482	(6) ANNUAL REPORTThe office, with assistance from the
483	institute, shall submit an annual report of the grant program's
484	activities to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
485	Speaker of the House of Representatives by July 15 of each year,
486	beginning in 2010.
487	(7) RULESThe office may adopt rules pursuant to ss.
488	120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including the
489	format and content of grant application forms, and the criteria
490	for qualifying companies engaged in technology research and
491	experimental development, production, or provision of technology
492	for commercial or public purposes.
493	(8) MONITORINGBefore the 2011 Regular Session of the

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494	Legislature, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
495	Government Accountability shall conduct a review and evaluation
496	of the grant program. The office shall specifically evaluate the
497	grant program's effectiveness in using state funds to sustain
498	and nurture companies developing micro-targeted technologies, to
499	create high-wage jobs, and to attract outside investment in
500	these companies.
501	Section 9.(1) The sum of \$22 million is transferred from
502	the Florida Opportunity Fund to the Economic Development Trust
503	Fund for the purpose of funding the credit transfer program and
504	grant program created by this act. Notwithstanding s. 216.301,
505	Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes,
506	the unexpended balance of this appropriation at the end of the
507	fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and shall be
508	available for carrying out the purposes of the programs in
509	future years.
510	(2) Of that amount:
511	(a) The sum of \$2 million is appropriated to the Institute
512	for the Commercialization of Public Research for the 2009-2010
513	fiscal year to support its operations, including its management,
514	operations, tracking, and measurement of outcomes relative to
515	the grant program.
516	(b) The sum of \$14 million shall be retained in the
517	Economic Development Trust Fund and earmarked for the Micro-
518	Targeted Technology Commercialization Assistance Grant Program,
519	to be used consistent with the purposes of s. 220.195, Florida
520	Statutes.
521	(c) The sum of \$5.8 million shall be retained in the
522	Economic Development Trust Fund to be used to reimburse the

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523	General Revenue Fund so as to defray the cost to the state of
524	the net operating loss tax credits created in s. 220.195,
525	Florida Statutes.
526	(d) The sum of \$200,000 shall be retained in the Economic
527	Development Trust Fund to be drawn, as needed, to pay the
528	administrative costs incurred by the Office of Tourism, Trade,
529	and Economic Development associated with implementing the Micro-
530	targeted Technology Commercialization Program and associated
531	with the Innovation Incentive Program.
532	Section 10. <u>Sections 220.194 and 220.195, Florida Statutes,</u>
533	are repealed effective June 30, 2013, unless reviewed and saved
534	from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.
535	Section 11. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.