

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to spaceport operations and Space
 3 Florida; amending s. 311.14, F.S.; defining the term
 4 "strategic spaceport hub"; requiring the governing
 5 board of certain seaports to coordinate with Space
 6 Florida for specified purposes; amending s. 331.302,
 7 F.S.; providing that Space Florida is not an agency
 8 and is not subject to certain bidding and contract
 9 procedures under certain conditions; amending s.
 10 331.3051, F.S.; requiring Space Florida to employ a
 11 full-time business development director for specified
 12 purposes; amending s. 331.3081, F.S.; revising
 13 membership of the Space Florida board of directors;
 14 providing an effective date.

15
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17
 18 **Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 311.14,**
 19 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

20 311.14 Seaport planning.—

21 (4) (a) For purposes of this subsection, the term
 22 "strategic spaceport hub" means spaceport territory located
 23 within 5 miles of a seaport listed in s. 311.09(1) that is used
 24 for deepwater commercial navigation.

25 (b) Before making any change to its strategic plan, the

26 governing board of a seaport located within 5 miles of a
 27 strategic spaceport hub must coordinate with Space Florida to
 28 ensure that the change does not conflict with Space Florida's
 29 business plan created pursuant to s. 331.3051.

30 **Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 331.302, Florida**
 31 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

32 331.302 Space Florida; creation; purpose.—

33 (4) (a) Space Florida is not an agency as defined in ss.
 34 216.011 and 287.012.

35 (b) Space Florida is not an agency as defined in s.
 36 287.055(2) (b) and is not subject to s. 255.20 when it purchases
 37 professional services or construction services, or both, using
 38 nonappropriated state funds. Space Florida must attest in
 39 writing that such funds are nonappropriated.

40 **Section 3. Section 331.3051, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 41 **to read:**

42 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.—Space Florida must
 43 ~~shall~~:

44 (1) (a) Create a business plan to foster the growth and
 45 development of the aerospace industry. The business plan must
 46 address business development, finance, spaceport operations,
 47 research and development, workforce development, and education.
 48 The business plan must be revised when determined as necessary
 49 by the board.

50 (b) Employ a full-time business development director for

51 the spaceport territories identified in s. 331.304(2), (3), (6),
52 and (7), whose primary focus must be to foster the growth and
53 development of spaceport activities, including, but not limited
54 to, horizontal launch capability, advanced air mobility, and
55 unmanned aerial vehicles.

56 (2) Enter into agreement with the Department of Education,
57 the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce,
58 and CareerSource Florida, Inc., for the purpose of implementing
59 this act.

60 (3) In cooperation with the Department of Commerce,
61 develop a plan to retain, expand, attract, and create aerospace
62 industry entities, public or private, which results in the
63 creation of high-value-added businesses and jobs in this state.

64 (4) Create a marketing campaign to help attract, develop,
65 and retain aerospace businesses, aerospace research and
66 technology, and other related activities in this state. Space
67 Florida shall attempt to coordinate the campaign with existing
68 economic development promotion efforts in this state and may use
69 private resources. Marketing strategies may include developing
70 promotional materials, Internet and print advertising, public
71 relations and media placement, trade show attendance, and other
72 activities.

73 (5) Consult with the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing
74 Corporation in developing a space tourism marketing plan. Space
75 Florida and the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation

76 | may enter into a mutually beneficial agreement that provides
77 | funding to the corporation for its services to implement this
78 | subsection.

79 | (6) Develop, in cooperation with the Department of
80 | Commerce, a plan to provide financing assistance to aerospace
81 | businesses. The plan may include the following activities:

82 | (a) Assembling, publishing, and disseminating information
83 | concerning financing opportunities and techniques for aerospace
84 | projects, programs, and activities; sources of public and
85 | private aerospace financing assistance; and sources of
86 | aerospace-related financing.

87 | (b) Organizing, hosting, and participating in seminars and
88 | other forums designed to disseminate information and technical
89 | assistance regarding aerospace-related financing.

90 | (c) Coordinating with programs and goals of the Department
91 | of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
92 | the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the International
93 | Trade Administration of the United States Department of
94 | Commerce, the Foreign Credit Insurance Association, and other
95 | private and public programs and organizations, domestic and
96 | foreign.

97 | (d) Establishing a network of contacts among those
98 | domestic and foreign public and private organizations that
99 | provide information, technical assistance, and financial support
100 | to the aerospace industry.

101 (e) Financing aerospace business development projects or
102 initiatives using funds provided by the Legislature.

103 (7) Carry out its responsibilities for spaceport
104 operations by:

105 (a) Seeking federal support and developing partnerships to
106 renew and upgrade the infrastructure and technologies at the
107 Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the John F. Kennedy Space
108 Center, and the Eastern Range that will enhance space and
109 military programs of the Federal Government, and improve access
110 for commercial launch activities.

111 (b) Supporting federal efforts to clarify roles and
112 responsibilities of federal agencies and eliminate duplicative
113 federal rules and policies, in an effort to streamline access
114 for commercial launch users.

115 (c) Pursuing the development of commercial spaceports in
116 the state, in addition to those defined in s. 331.304, through a
117 competitive request for proposals in partnership with counties
118 or municipalities, the Federal Government, or private entities.

119 (d) Promoting and facilitating launch activity within the
120 state by supporting and assisting commercial launch operators in
121 completing and submitting required documentation and gaining
122 approvals and authorization from the required federal agencies
123 for launching from Florida.

124 (e) Consulting regularly with the appropriate federal,
125 state, and local authorities, including the National Aeronautics

126 and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration,
127 the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, the
128 Florida National Guard, and industry on all aspects of
129 establishing and operating spaceport infrastructure and related
130 aerospace facilities within the state.

131 (8) Carry out its responsibility for research and
132 development by:

133 (a) Contracting for the operations of the state's Space
134 Life Sciences Laboratory.

135 (b) Working in collaboration with one or more public or
136 private universities and other public or private entities to
137 foster and promote the research necessary to develop
138 commercially promising, advanced, and innovative science and
139 technology and transfer those discoveries to the commercial
140 sector. This may include developing a proposal to establish a
141 Center of Excellence for Aerospace.

142 (c) Supporting universities in this state that are members
143 of the Federal Aviation Administration's Center of Excellence
144 for Commercial Space Transportation to assure a safe,
145 environmentally compatible, and efficient commercial space
146 transportation system in this state.

147 (9) Carry out its responsibility for workforce development
148 by coordinating with CareerSource Florida, Inc., community
149 colleges, colleges, public and private universities, and other
150 public and private partners to develop a plan to retain, train,

151 and retrain workers, from entry-level skills training through to
152 technician-level, and 4-year degrees and higher, with the skills
153 most relevant to aerospace employers.

154 (10) Carry out its responsibility for creating innovative
155 education programs by funding programs developed in conjunction
156 with the Department of Education that target grades K-20 in an
157 effort to promote mathematics and science education programs,
158 which may include the Florida-NASA Matching Grant Program,
159 aerospace-focused education programs for teachers, education-
160 oriented microgravity flight programs for teachers and students,
161 and Internet-based aerospace education. Funds appropriated and
162 any in-kind or private sector contributions may be used to carry
163 out innovative education programs. Funding levels shall be
164 determined by the Space Florida board of directors. In its
165 annual report, Space Florida shall include, at a minimum, a
166 description of programs funded, the number of students served,
167 and private sector support.

168 (11) Regularly solicit input on Space Florida plans and
169 activities from the aerospace industry, private sector spaceport
170 territory stakeholders, each entity that owns or has ownership
171 interest in a facility within spaceport territory, and other
172 political subdivisions within spaceport territory.

173 (12) Partner with the Board of Governors to foster
174 technological advancement and economic development for spaceport
175 activities by strengthening higher education programs and

176 supporting aerospace activities.

177 (13) Partner with the Division of Workforce Services of
178 the Department of Commerce, CareerSource Florida, Inc., and
179 local workforce development boards to support initiatives that
180 address the high technology skills and staff resources needed to
181 better promote the state's efforts in becoming the nation's
182 leader in aerospace and space exploration.

183 (14) Partner with the Metropolitan Planning Organization
184 Advisory Council to coordinate and specify how aerospace
185 planning and programming will be part of the state's cooperative
186 transportation planning process.

187 (15) Administer the International Aerospace Innovation
188 Fund established under s. 331.372.

189 (16) By October 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, submit
190 to the Department of Commerce for inclusion in the annual report
191 required under s. 20.60 a complete and detailed written report
192 setting forth:

193 (a) Its operations and accomplishments during the fiscal
194 year.

195 (b) Accomplishments and progress concerning the
196 implementation of the spaceport master plan and other measurable
197 goals, and any updates to such plan and measurable goals.

198 (c) Any other information required by the Department of
199 Commerce.

200 (17) (a) In addition to the reporting requirements in

201 chapter 189, annually report on its performance with respect to
202 its business plan, to include finance, spaceport operations,
203 research and development, workforce development, and education.

204 (b) Space Florida shall submit the report to the Governor,
205 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
206 Representatives by November 30 for the previous fiscal year.

207 (c) The annual report must include operations information
208 as required under s. 331.310(2)(e) and data on the economic
209 impact of the aerospace industry in the state during the
210 previous year, including, but not limited to, the amount and
211 sources of capital investment, the number of jobs created and
212 retained, and annualized average wages, listed by geographic
213 areas within the state as specified by the board.

214 **Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section**
215 **331.3081, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (f) and**
216 **amended, and a new paragraph (e) is added to that section, to**
217 **read:**

218 331.3081 Board of directors.—

219 (1) Space Florida shall be governed by an independent
220 board of directors that consists of the Governor, who shall
221 serve ex officio, or who may appoint a designee to serve, as the
222 chair and a voting member of the board, and the following
223 appointed members:

224 (e) A representative of the Jacksonville Aviation
225 Authority, appointed by the Governor.

226 (f)~~(e)~~ A representative of each of the following entities,
 227 who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the board,
 228 appointed by the Governor:

229 ~~1. The Jacksonville Aviation Authority.~~

230 1.2. The Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority.

231 ~~2.3.~~ An employee or official of a port district or port
 232 authority as defined in s. 315.02(2).

233 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.