

By: J. Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 2531

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2531:

By: Isaac

C.S.H.B. No. 2531

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of money in the spaceport trust fund for programs related to the aerospace industry.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 481.0069, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsections (e-1) and (e-2) to read as follows:

(d) Money in the spaceport trust fund may not be spent unless the office certifies to the comptroller:

(1) that:

(A) [~~(1)~~] a viable business entity has been established that:

(i) [~~(A)~~] has a business plan that demonstrates that the entity has available the financial, managerial, and technical expertise and capability necessary to launch and land a reusable launch vehicle; and

(ii) [~~(B)~~] has committed to locating its facilities at a spaceport in this state;

(B) [~~(2)~~] a development corporation for spaceport facilities created under Chapter 507, Local Government Code, has established a development plan for the spaceport project and has secured at least 90 percent of the funding required for the project; and

(C) [~~(3)~~] the spaceport or launch operator has

1 obtained the appropriate Federal Aviation Administration license;
2 or
3 (2) that the money will be used to pay for programs
4 described by Subsection (e)(2).

5 (e) Money in the spaceport trust fund may be used only:

6 (1) to pay expenditures for the development of
7 infrastructure necessary or useful for establishing a spaceport; or

8 (2) to fund programs related to research conducted
9 onboard the International Space Station, including a program that
10 provides money, subject to Subsection (e-1), to a nonprofit
11 organization to support that research, if the organization:

12 (A) is formed in this state;

13 (B) has a Space Act agreement with the National
14 Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

15 (C) has the authority to use the capabilities of
16 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the aerospace
17 industry, and institutions of higher education.

18 (e-1) A nonprofit organization described by Subsection
19 (e)(2) shall use any money received under this section to support
20 the research described by that subdivision in collaboration with:

21 (1) companies formed in this state; or

22 (2) public-private partnerships.

23 (e-2) The office may contract with a development
24 corporation for spaceport facilities for the infrastructure
25 development.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.