

CHAPTER 2023-275

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1189

An act relating to monuments; creating s. 265.009, F.S.; providing legislative intent; establishing the Florida Space Exploration Monument; providing for administration of the monument by the Department of Management Services; providing for the creation of a design contest and selection committee; requiring the department to develop a plan for the design, placement, and cost of the monument; requiring the plan to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Florida’s history with space exploration can be traced back to 1865, when Jules Verne envisioned the state as the launch site of the “Columbiad” cannon in his popular novel *From the Earth to the Moon*, and

WHEREAS, in 1950, a rocket known as “Bumper 8” became the first rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the crew of Apollo 11 undertook the first mission that would land humans on the surface of the moon after launching from the John F. Kennedy Space Center located on Merritt Island on Florida’s east coast, and

WHEREAS, Florida continues to be home to the Cape Canaveral Spaceport, consisting of NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center and the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, and

WHEREAS, the state maintains a robust commercial aerospace industry and highly trained workforce that have contributed technical and scientific knowledge that has allowed Florida to continue to serve as the launch pad of the United States’ achievements in space, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Florida Space Exploration Monument would not only commemorate the past achievements and contributions of individuals who have made this state a leader in space exploration, but would also serve in the future to inspire individuals to help maintain this state’s role as such, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 265.009, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

265.009 Florida Space Exploration Monument.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize the importance of the role of this state, and its past, current, and future contributions, in space exploration; to honor this state’s residents for their role in humanity’s most daring journey of space exploration; and to honor the contribution of all

individuals and their families who have gone unrecognized for their impact on the United States’ achievements in space.

(2) There is established the Florida Space Exploration Monument.

(a) The monument is administered by the Department of Management Services.

(b) The department, in consultation with Space Florida, shall establish a contest for individuals who wish to submit a design for the monument. The department and Space Florida shall appoint a selection committee to choose the design of the monument.

(c) The department shall develop a plan for the design, placement, and cost of the monument. The plan must include the designation of an appropriate public area for the monument on the premises of the Capitol Complex as defined in s. 281.01, not including the State Capital Circle Office Complex. The department shall consider the recommendations of the Florida Historical Commission as required pursuant to ss. 265.111 and 267.0612(9) and shall coordinate with the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State in developing the plan. The plan must also include the dates for the design contest and the timeframe for the selection committee to review and select a design. The department shall submit the plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by July 1, 2024.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor June 21, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2023.