

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to monuments; creating s. 265.009,  
 3           F.S.; providing legislative intent; establishing the  
 4           Florida Space Exploration Monument; providing for  
 5           administration of the monument by the Department of  
 6           Management Services; providing for the creation of a  
 7           design contest and selection committee; requiring the  
 8           department to develop a plan for the design,  
 9           placement, and cost of the monument; requiring the  
 10          plan to be submitted to the Governor and the  
 11          Legislature by a specified date; providing an  
 12          effective date.

13  
 14           WHEREAS, Florida's history with space exploration can be  
 15          traced back to 1865, when Jules Verne envisioned the state as  
 16          the launch site of the "Columbiad" cannon in his popular novel  
 17          *From the Earth to the Moon*, and

18           WHEREAS, in 1950, a rocket known as "Bumper 8" became the  
 19          first rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, and

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

25           WHEREAS, Florida continues to be home to the Cape Canaveral

26 | Spaceport, consisting of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center and  
 27 | the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, and

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

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

39 |  
 40 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41 |  
 42 |       Section 1. Section 265.009, Florida Statutes, is created  
 43 | to read:

44 |       265.009 Florida Space Exploration Monument.—

45 |       (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize the  
 46 | importance of the role of this state, and its past, current, and  
 47 | future contributions, in space exploration; to honor this  
 48 | state's residents for their role in humanity's most daring  
 49 | journey of space exploration; and to honor the contribution of  
 50 | all individuals and their families who have gone unrecognized

51 for their impact on the United States' achievements in space.

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

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

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

61 (c) The department shall develop a plan for the design,  
62 placement, and cost of the monument. The plan must include the  
63 designation of an appropriate public area for the monument on  
64 the premises of the Capitol Complex as defined in s. 281.01, not  
65 including the State Capital Circle Office Complex. The  
66 department shall consider the recommendations of the Florida  
67 Historical Commission as required pursuant to ss. 265.111 and  
68 267.0612(9) and shall coordinate with the Division of Historical  
69 Resources of the Department of State in developing the plan. The  
70 plan must also include the dates for the design contest and the  
71 timeframe for the selection committee to review and select a  
72 design. The department shall submit the plan to the Governor,  
73 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
74 Representatives by July 1, 2024.

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