

**CHAPTER 19****(HB 215)**

AN ACT relating to the approval of a capital project, appropriating funds therefor, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Department of Military Affairs manages and maintains the former Lexington Army Depot, known as Bluegrass Station; and

WHEREAS, Bluegrass Station currently has 49 tenants, and is 99% leased/occupied; and

WHEREAS, the largest tenant located at the Bluegrass Station is the Special Operations Forces Support Activity (SOFSA), a subordinate command of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), that administers contracts and subcontracts in excess of \$1.5 billion to rebuild military helicopters and provide other requirements with existing or new capabilities to meet near- and mid-term logistics support missions needs for USSOCOM; and

WHEREAS, the SOFSA operation currently has a payroll of \$51 million and employs 1,004 people; and

WHEREAS, for SOFSA to fulfill its mission for comprehensive aircraft logistics support operations, including repair modifications, maintenance management, life cycle support, and sustainment, a major expansion of existing operations and additional infrastructure is necessary at Bluegrass Station, including a new hangar and paint facility, a warehouse and an administrative building, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the proposed expansion will result in the creation of over 300 new quality jobs within the first two years; and

WHEREAS, this project was included in the Governor's proposed budget in 2004, and was also included in the budgets approved separately by both the Kentucky House of Representatives and Senate; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for this project to be approved on an expedited basis because construction must begin by March 1, 2005 in order to fulfill the requirements of the agreement, and the contractor and client have already lost almost one year due to the fact that the legislature did not enact an executive budget during the 2004 regular legislative session; and

WHEREAS, other states are actively trying to lure this project away from Kentucky at this time;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

Section 1. The General Assembly authorizes a \$12,020,000 capital project for the Department of Military Affairs to be located at Bluegrass Station, and appropriates \$1,373,000 in fiscal year 2005-2006 from Restricted Agency funds for debt service.

Section 2. Whereas time is of the essence and this project must be commenced by March 1, 2005 to meet contractual timelines, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming law.

**Approved March 2, 2005.**