

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the administration of the governor's university  
3 research initiative.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 62.161(1), Education Code, as added by  
6 Chapters 323 (S.B. 632) and 915 (H.B. 26), Acts of the 84th  
7 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

8 (1) "Distinguished researcher" means:

9 (A) an individual ~~[a]~~ researcher who ~~[is]~~:

10 (i) is ~~[(A)]~~ a Nobel laureate; ~~[or]~~

11 (ii) is ~~[(B)]~~ a member of the National  
12 Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, or the  
13 National Academy of Medicine, formerly known as the Institute of  
14 Medicine; or

15 (iii) has attained a highly prestigious  
16 national academic recognition, as defined by office rule; or

17 (B) a group of researchers who have attained the  
18 recognition described by Paragraph (A)(iii), as defined by office  
19 rule.

20 SECTION 2. Section 62.162(b), Education Code, as added by  
21 Chapters 323 (S.B. 632) and 915 (H.B. 26), Acts of the 84th  
22 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

23 (b) The office in consultation with the commissioner of  
24 higher education may adopt any rules the office considers necessary

1 to administer this subchapter. The commissioner shall recommend to  
2 the office the types of national academic recognitions that are  
3 considered to be highly prestigious for purposes of determining  
4 which individuals or groups qualify as a "distinguished researcher"  
5 under Section 62.161.

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 62, Education Code, as  
7 added by Chapters 323 (S.B. 632) and 915 (H.B. 26), Acts of the 84th  
8 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended by adding Section  
9 62.169 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 62.169. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) The governor's  
11 university research initiative advisory board is established to  
12 assist the office with the review and evaluation of applications  
13 for funding of grant proposals under this subchapter. The advisory  
14 board shall make recommendations to the office for approval or  
15 disapproval of those applications.

16 (b) The advisory board must be composed of at least nine  
17 members appointed by the governor. Of the members of the board:

18 (1) one-third of the members, as nearly as possible,  
19 must have a background in finance;

20 (2) one-third of the members, as nearly as possible,  
21 must have an academic background in science, technology,  
22 engineering, or mathematics; and

23 (3) one-third of the members, as nearly as possible,  
24 must be public members.

25 (c) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the  
26 size, composition, or duration of the advisory board.

27 (d) A member of the advisory board who is or has been

1 employed by, is or has been a party to a contract for any purpose  
2 with, or is a student or former student of an applicant eligible  
3 institution may not be involved in the review, evaluation, or  
4 recommendation of a grant proposal made by that institution.

5 (e) An advisory board member is not required to be a  
6 resident of this state.

7 (f) Appointments to the advisory board shall be made without  
8 regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or  
9 national origin of the appointees.

10 (g) Members of the advisory board serve without  
11 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
12 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the board or performing  
13 other official duties authorized by the office.

14 SECTION 4. Subchapter H, Chapter 62, Education Code, as  
15 added by Chapter 448 (H.B. 7), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular  
16 Session, 2015, is repealed.

17 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
18 to a grant application submitted to the Texas Economic Development  
19 and Tourism Office in the office of the governor on or after the  
20 effective date of this Act. A grant application submitted before  
21 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on  
22 the date the application was submitted, and that law is continued in  
23 effect for that purpose.

24 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

S.B. No. 1525

1 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.