

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 3988

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Advanced Research Institute.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 482 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 482. TEXAS ADVANCED RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Sec. 482.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "institute" means the Texas Advanced Research Institute.

Sec. 482.002. PURPOSES. The Texas Advanced Research Institute is established in the office of the governor to:

(1) promote advanced research efforts in all disciplines, including:

(A) energy;

(B) medicine; and

(C) biotechnology;

(2) attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in advanced research and development and in the creation of inventions and patents in this state;

(3) ensure that this state invests and receives a return on investment in advanced research and development commensurate with the size and influence of this state's economy;
and

1 (4) serve as an intermediary between institutions of
2 higher education, the private sector, and other stakeholders to
3 develop the workforce of this state and equip that workforce with
4 skills and credentials for the jobs and professions of the future,
5 including technical skills.

6 Sec. 482.003. SUNSET PROVISION. The Texas Advanced
7 Research Institute is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act).
8 Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the
9 institute is abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2035.

10 Sec. 482.004. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The institute:

11 (1) may make grants to provide funding to public or
12 private persons to conduct research and development with the
13 objective of advancing knowledge, creating intellectual property,
14 and identifying commercial opportunities to monetize the products
15 resulting from advanced research and development;

16 (2) shall coordinate with participating public and
17 private persons to develop the Texas Advanced Research Plan;

18 (3) may support institutions of higher education,
19 advanced research facilities, and collaborations in this state in
20 all stages in the process of conducting and exploiting advanced
21 research and development;

22 (4) may establish the appropriate standards and
23 oversight bodies to ensure the proper use of funds authorized under
24 this chapter for advanced research and development;

25 (5) shall continuously monitor contracts and
26 agreements authorized by this chapter and ensure that each grant
27 recipient complies with the terms and conditions of the grant

1 contract;

2 (6) shall ensure that all grant proposals comply with
3 this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter before the
4 proposals are granted approval; and

5 (7) shall establish procedures to document that the
6 institute, its employees, and council members appointed under this
7 chapter comply with all laws governing the academic peer review
8 process and conflicts of interest where applicable.

9 (b) The institute shall implement the Texas Advanced
10 Research Plan and continually monitor and revise the plan as
11 necessary.

12 Sec. 482.005. LEADERSHIP, STAFF, AND RESOURCES. (a) The
13 institute is governed by a council of nine members appointed by the
14 governor.

15 (b) Members of the council serve staggered six-year terms
16 with one-third of the members' terms expiring on February 1 of each
17 odd-numbered year.

18 (c) The governor shall designate a member as the president
19 of the council to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the
20 governor.

21 (d) The office of the governor shall provide the institute
22 with necessary staff and resources to perform the institute's
23 duties under this chapter.

24 Sec. 482.006. DUTIES OF COUNCIL. (a) The council shall
25 select the recipients of any grants awarded by the institute.

26 (b) The council may conduct surveys, research, or
27 investigations for the purposes of the institute.

1 Sec. 482.007. MEETINGS. The council shall meet at least
2 once each year at the call of the president.

3 Sec. 482.008. FUNDING. (a) The institute may receive
4 state-appropriated funds for the purpose of supporting the
5 activities of the institute.

6 (b) The institute may solicit, accept, and use gifts,
7 grants, and donations from public and private sources for the
8 purposes of this chapter, subject only to limitations contained in
9 the gifts, grants, or donations.

10 (c) The institute may receive funding in the form of
11 royalties, license fees, and profits resulting from inventions,
12 discoveries, and products developed by or in partnership with, or
13 coordinated through, the institute.

14 SECTION 2. In appointing the initial members of the council
15 of the Texas Advanced Research Institute, the governor shall
16 appoint three members for terms expiring February 1, 2025, three
17 members for terms expiring February 1, 2027, and three members for
18 terms expiring February 1, 2029.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.