

By: Escobar

H.B. No. 3153

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of a wind power research institute at Texas
3 A&M University--Kingsville.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 87, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 87.304 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 87.304. WIND POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE. (a) The board
8 of regents of The Texas A&M University System shall establish at
9 Texas A&M University--Kingsville an institute to conduct research
10 regarding the effects of coastal wind power installations on
11 migratory bird populations and to coordinate technological
12 advances in wind power to address those effects.

13 (b) The organization, control, and management of the
14 institute is vested in the board of regents.

15 (c) The employment of personnel by and the operating budget
16 of the institute are subject to the approval of the board of
17 regents. An employee of the institute is an employee of Texas A&M
18 University--Kingsville.

19 (d) The institute shall:

20 (1) conduct research on coastal wind power, the
21 special equipment and engineering needed for wind power
22 installations in coastal locations, and the impact wind power
23 generation has on migratory bird populations;

24 (2) develop technologies to measure migratory bird

1 populations;

2 (3) train biologists to monitor birds and other
3 wildlife; and

4 (4) train engineers and technical personnel to design,
5 install, operate, and maintain wind power turbines.

6 (e) The institute may establish technical advisory
7 committees to develop the protocols and curriculum of the
8 institute.

9 (f) The institute may serve as or contract with a public or
10 private entity to serve as a public repository for:

11 (1) sighting studies of migratory birds; and

12 (2) operational monitoring data for wind power.

13 (g) The board of regents or the university may solicit and
14 accept gifts and grants from a public or private source for the
15 benefit of the institute.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.