

By: Shapiro, et al.

S.B. No. 831

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of programs and funding for emerging technology industries.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 490 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 490. FUNDING FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 490.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Committee" means the Texas Emerging Technology Committee.

(2) "Fund" means the Texas emerging technology fund.

(3) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

Sec. 490.002. PURPOSES. The fund is established under this chapter to develop and diversify the economy of this state by:

(1) expediting innovation and commercialization of research;

(2) attracting, creating, or expanding private sector entities that will promote a substantial increase in high quality jobs; and

(3) increasing higher education applied technology research capabilities.

Sec. 490.003. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES. (a) An

1 emerging technology industry participant is eligible for funding
2 under this chapter if the activity to be funded:

3 (1) will result in the creation of high quality new
4 jobs in this state, immediately or over a longer period; or

5 (2) has the potential to result in a medical or
6 scientific breakthrough.

7 (b) Emerging technology industries include industries
8 related to:

9 (1) semiconductors;

10 (2) information;

11 (3) computer and software technology;

12 (4) energy;

13 (5) manufactured energy systems;

14 (6) micro-electromechanical systems;

15 (7) nanotechnology;

16 (8) biotechnology;

17 (9) medicine;

18 (10) life sciences;

19 (11) petroleum refining and chemical processes;

20 (12) aerospace;

21 (13) defense; and

22 (14) other pursuits, as determined by the governor in
23 consultation with the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the
24 house of representatives.

25 [Sections 490.004-490.050 reserved for expansion]

26 SUBCHAPTER B. TEXAS EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

27 Sec. 490.051. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE. The Texas Emerging

1 Technology Committee is composed of 17 members.

2 Sec. 490.052. APPOINTMENT BY GOVERNOR; NOMINATIONS.

3 (a) The governor shall appoint to the committee individuals
4 nominated as provided by Subsection (b).

5 (b) The following persons may nominate one or more
6 individuals who are industry leaders in this state or who are
7 nationally recognized researchers from public or private
8 institutions of higher education in this state for appointment to
9 the committee:

10 (1) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

11 (2) a president of a public or private institution of
12 higher education in this state;

13 (3) the members of the Texas Workforce Commission;

14 (4) a representative of the governor's office involved
15 in economic development activities; and

16 (5) other persons considered appropriate by the
17 governor.

18 (c) The governor may prescribe a date after which a
19 nomination under Subsection (b) for appointment for the next term
20 will not be considered.

21 (d) If an insufficient number of qualified individuals are
22 nominated as provided by Subsection (b) before the date set by the
23 governor under Subsection (c), the governor may appoint any
24 qualified individual to the committee for that term.

25 Sec. 490.053. PRESIDING MEMBER. The governor shall appoint
26 a presiding member of the committee.

27 Sec. 490.054. TERMS. Members of the committee serve

1 two-year terms, subject to the pleasure of the governor.

2 Sec. 490.055. COMMITTEE STAFF AND FUNDING. Necessary staff
3 and funding for the committee shall be provided by:

4 (1) the office of the governor;

5 (2) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

6 (3) the Texas Education Agency;

7 (4) the Texas Workforce Commission;

8 (5) another public entity represented by a committee
9 member; and

10 (6) gifts, grants, and donations for overhead expenses
11 to the entities listed in Subdivisions (1)-(5).

12 Sec. 490.056. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING. (a) The
13 committee shall make recommendations, through peer review and
14 evaluation processes established by the committee, to the governor,
15 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
16 for the award of money from the fund as provided by this chapter.

17 (b) The committee may establish advisory panels of
18 knowledgeable individuals from industry, state government, or
19 academic occupations to assist in peer review activities under this
20 chapter.

21 Sec. 490.057. CONFIDENTIALITY. Information collected by
22 the governor's office, the committee, or the committee's advisory
23 panels concerning the identity, background, finance, marketing
24 plans, trade secrets, or other commercially or academically
25 sensitive information of an individual or entity being considered
26 for an award from the fund is confidential unless the individual or
27 entity consents to disclosure of the information.

1 [Sections 490.058-490.100 reserved for expansion]

2 SUBCHAPTER C. TEXAS EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

3 Sec. 490.101. TEXAS EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND. (a) The
4 Texas emerging technology fund is a dedicated account in the
5 general revenue fund.

6 (b) The following amounts shall be deposited in the fund:

7 (1) any amounts appropriated by the legislature for
8 the fund;

9 (2) benefits realized from a project undertaken with
10 money from the fund, as provided by a contract entered into under
11 Section 490.103;

12 (3) gifts, grants, and other donations received for
13 the fund; and

14 (4) interest earned on the investment of money in the
15 fund.

16 (c) The fund may be used only for the purposes described by
17 Section 490.002.

18 (d) The committee may solicit and accept gifts and grants
19 for the fund from public and private entities.

20 (e) The fund may be temporarily used by the comptroller for
21 cash management purposes.

22 (f) The administration of the fund is considered to be a
23 trusteed program within the office of the governor. The governor
24 may negotiate on behalf of the state regarding awarding, by grant,
25 money appropriated from the fund. The governor may award money
26 appropriated from the fund only with the express written prior
27 approval of the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of

1 representatives.

2 (g) Before awarding a grant under this chapter, the governor
3 may enter into a written agreement with the entity to be awarded the
4 grant money specifying that:

5 (1) if all or any portion of the amount of the grant is
6 used to build a capital improvement:

7 (A) the state retains a lien or other interest in
8 the capital improvement in proportion to the percentage of the
9 grant amount used to pay for the capital improvement; and

10 (B) the recipient of the grant shall, if the
11 capital improvement is sold:

12 (i) repay to the state the grant money used
13 to pay for the capital improvement, with interest at the rate and
14 according to the other terms provided by the agreement; and

15 (ii) share with the state a proportionate
16 amount of any profit realized from the sale; and

17 (2) if, as of a date certain provided in the agreement,
18 the grant recipient has not used grant money awarded under this
19 chapter for the purposes for which the grant was intended, the
20 recipient shall repay that amount and any related interest
21 applicable under the agreement to the state at the agreed rate and
22 on the agreed terms.

23 Sec. 490.102. ALLOCATION OF FUND. (a) Money appropriated
24 to the fund by the legislature shall be allocated as follows:

25 (1) 50 percent of the money for incentives for
26 collaboration between certain entities as provided by Subchapter D;

27 (2) 25 percent of the money for research grant

1 matching as provided by Subchapter E; and

2 (3) 25 percent of the money for acquisition of
3 research superiority as provided by Subchapter F.

4 (b) The governor may reallocate money from one component of
5 the fund to another component subject to the prior approval of the
6 lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of representatives.

7 Sec. 490.103. ALLOCATION OF PROCEEDS. (a) The contract
8 between the governor and a recipient awarded a grant under this
9 chapter shall provide for the distribution of royalties, revenue,
10 or other financial benefits realized from the commercialization of
11 intellectual or real property developed from any grant awarded from
12 the fund. To the extent authorized by law and not in conflict with
13 another agreement, the contract shall appropriately allocate by
14 assignment, licensing, or other means the royalties, revenue, or
15 other financial benefits among identifiable collaborating parties
16 and in a specified percentage to this state for deposit in the fund.

17 (b) The contract under Subsection (a) shall also specify
18 other matters considered necessary by the governor, lieutenant
19 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.

20 [Sections 490.104-490.150 reserved for expansion]

21 SUBCHAPTER D. INCENTIVES TO CREATE REGIONAL CENTERS OF
22 INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

23 Sec. 490.151. USE OF MONEY FOR INCENTIVES. (a) Amounts
24 allocated from the fund for use as provided by this subchapter shall
25 be reserved for incentives for private or nonprofit entities to
26 collaborate with public or private institutions of higher education
27 in this state on emerging technology projects with a demonstrable

1 economic benefit to this state.

2 (b) The committee shall recommend proposals eligible for
3 funding under this section to the governor, lieutenant governor,
4 and speaker of the house of representatives.

5 Sec. 490.152. REGIONAL CENTERS OF INNOVATION AND
6 COMMERCIALIZATION. (a) In recommending proposals for funding,
7 the committee shall give specific emphasis to the formation of
8 regional centers of innovation and commercialization.

9 (b) An appropriate combination of any entities described by
10 Section 490.151(a) may collaborate to form a regional center of
11 innovation and commercialization to serve a region of this state.

12 (c) A regional center of innovation and commercialization
13 shall provide for a specified region:

14 (1) research and development activities that may
15 include initiatives to prove the feasibility of an idea;

16 (2) commercialization of the results of research and
17 development;

18 (3) incubators for new businesses and expansion of
19 existing businesses related to research and development; and

20 (4) workforce training for businesses resulting from
21 research and development.

22 (d) Subject to the availability of suitable partners and
23 resources, the committee shall propose and initiate the
24 establishment of a regional center of innovation and
25 commercialization in:

26 (1) Harris County;

27 (2) Lubbock County;

1 (3) Bexar County;

2 (4) the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex;

3 (5) El Paso County;

4 (6) the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and

5 (7) other suitable locations as determined by the
6 governor in consultation with the lieutenant governor and the
7 speaker of the house of representatives.

8 Sec. 490.153. PRIORITY FOR FUNDING. In awarding money from
9 the fund under this subchapter, priority shall be given to
10 proposals that:

11 (1) involve emerging scientific or technology fields
12 that have a reasonable probability of enhancing this state's
13 national and global economic competitiveness;

14 (2) may result in a medical or scientific
15 breakthrough;

16 (3) are collaborative between any combination of
17 private or nonprofit entities and public or private agencies or
18 institutions in this state;

19 (4) are matched with other available funds, including
20 funds from the private or nonprofit entity or institution of higher
21 education collaborating on the project; or

22 (5) have a demonstrable economic development benefit
23 to this state.

24 Sec. 490.154. GUARANTEE OF ACTION BY PARTICIPATING ENTITY.

25 (a) An entity participating in a regional center of innovation and
26 commercialization that receives funding or another incentive under
27 this subchapter shall guarantee by contract with the governor's

1 office that the entity will perform specific actions expected to
2 provide benefits to this state.

3 (b) If an entity fails to perform an action guaranteed by
4 contract under Subsection (a) before a time specified by the
5 contract, the entity shall return to the fund the money received by
6 the entity under this subchapter.

7 Sec. 490.155. GUARANTEE OF COMMERCIALIZATION OR
8 MANUFACTURING IN TEXAS. A person or entity awarded money from the
9 fund under this subchapter must guarantee by contract that a
10 substantial percentage of any new or expanded commercialization or
11 manufacturing of any real or intellectual product resulting from
12 the award will be established in this state.

13 Sec. 490.156. AUTHORIZED EXPENSES. (a) A person awarded
14 money from the fund under this subchapter may use the money to
15 expedite commercialization that will lead to an increase in high
16 quality jobs in this state and shall use the money in accordance
17 with a contract between the person and the committee.

18 (b) Authorized expenses under this section include salaries
19 and benefits, travel, consumable supplies, other operating
20 expenses, contracted research and development, capital equipment,
21 construction or renovation of state or private facilities, and
22 workforce training.

23 [Sections 490.157-490.200 reserved for expansion]

24 SUBCHAPTER E. RESEARCH GRANT MATCHING

25 Sec. 490.201. USE OF MONEY FOR RESEARCH GRANT MATCHING.

26 (a) Amounts allocated from the fund for use as provided by this
27 subchapter shall be reserved to match funding from research

1 sponsors other than this state, including federal research
2 sponsors.

3 (b) The committee shall recommend proposals eligible for
4 funding under this section to the governor, lieutenant governor,
5 and speaker of the house of representatives.

6 Sec. 490.202. PRIORITY FOR FUNDING. In awarding money from
7 the fund under this subchapter, priority shall be given to
8 proposals that accelerate commercialization into production by
9 targeting programs that:

10 (1) address federal or other major research sponsors'
11 priorities in emerging scientific or technology fields;

12 (2) are interdisciplinary;

13 (3) are collaborative with a combination of public or
14 private institutions of higher education in this state;

15 (4) are likely to result in a medical or scientific
16 breakthrough; or

17 (5) have a demonstrable economic development benefit
18 to this state.

19 Sec. 490.203. GUARANTEE OF ACTION BY PARTICIPATING ENTITY.

20 (a) An entity receiving funding or another incentive under this
21 subchapter shall guarantee by contract with the governor's office
22 that the entity will perform specific actions that are expected to
23 provide benefits to this state.

24 (b) If an entity fails to perform an action guaranteed by
25 contract under Subsection (a) before a time specified by the
26 contract, the entity shall return the funding received by the
27 entity under this subchapter.

1 [Sections 490.204-490.250 reserved for expansion]

2 SUBCHAPTER F. ACQUISITION OF RESEARCH SUPERIORITY

3 Sec. 490.251. USE OF MONEY FOR ACQUISITION OF RESEARCH
4 SUPERIORITY. Amounts allocated from the fund for use as provided by
5 this subchapter shall be used to acquire new or enhance existing
6 research superiority at public institutions of higher education in
7 this state.

8 Sec. 490.252. RESEARCH SUPERIORITY. For purposes of this
9 subchapter, the employment by an institution of higher education of
10 one or more world class or nationally recognized researchers and
11 associated assistants in an industry eligible to receive funding
12 under Section 490.003 is considered "research superiority."

13 Sec. 490.253. PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING. (a) The committee
14 shall solicit and identify proposals by public institutions of
15 higher education for:

16 (1) creating new research superiority;

17 (2) attracting existing research superiority from
18 institutions not located in this state and other research entities;
19 or

20 (3) enhancing existing research superiority by
21 attracting from outside this state additional researchers and
22 resources.

23 (b) The committee shall recommend proposals eligible for
24 funding under Section 490.251 and proposals solicited and
25 identified under this section to the governor, lieutenant governor,
26 and speaker of the house of representatives.

27 Sec. 490.254. PRIORITY FOR FUNDING. In awarding money from

1 the fund under this subchapter, priority shall be given to
2 proposals that:

3 (1) involve scientific or technical fields that have a
4 reasonable probability of enhancing this state's national and
5 global economic competitiveness;

6 (2) may result in a medical or scientific
7 breakthrough;

8 (3) are interdisciplinary;

9 (4) have attracted or may attract federal and other
10 funding for research superiority;

11 (5) are likely to create a nationally or
12 internationally recognized locus of research superiority; or

13 (6) are matched with other funds available to the
14 institution seeking funding under this subchapter.

15 Sec. 490.255. AUTHORIZED EXPENSES. Money awarded from the
16 fund under this subchapter may be used for research and research
17 capability acquisition, including salaries and benefits, travel,
18 consumable supplies, other operating expenses, capital equipment,
19 and construction or renovation of facilities.

20 Sec. 490.256. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES. (a) An institution
21 of higher education may not knowingly attempt to attract an
22 individual key researcher or research superiority identified for
23 consideration for funding by another public or private institution
24 of higher education in this state under this subchapter.

25 (b) An institution that violates this section is ineligible
26 to participate in a program or receive funding under this chapter
27 before the third anniversary of the date the institution last

1 engaged in an activity prohibited by this section.

2 Sec. 490.257. DOCUMENTATION OF BENEFITS TO STATE. (a) A
3 public institution of higher education must document specific
4 benefits that this state may expect to gain as a result of
5 attracting the research superiority before the institution may
6 enter into a contract to receive funding or incentives under this
7 subchapter.

8 (b) The governor, with the express written prior approval of
9 the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
10 representatives, may terminate funding to an institution if the
11 institution fails to realize a benefit specified in the contract
12 before a time specified in the contract, as determined by a periodic
13 program review conducted by the committee.

14 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
15 date of this Act, a person seeking to nominate an individual for
16 appointment to the Texas Emerging Technology Committee under
17 Section 490.052, Government Code, as added by this Act, shall make
18 any nominations.

19 (b) The governor shall appoint the Texas Emerging
20 Technology Committee as required by Section 490.052, Government
21 Code, as added by this Act, on or before September 1, 2005, or as
22 soon as practicable after giving persons nominating individuals for
23 appointment to the committee a reasonable time to make any
24 nominations.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
3 legislative session.