

By: Strama

H.B. No. 4329

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4329:

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C.S.H.B. No. 4329

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to an interim study on the creation of a data collection to  
3 track specialized technology research projects conducted by public  
4 universities, public university research facilities, and other  
5 state institutions.

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

7 SECTION 1. INTERIM STUDY REGARDING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DATA  
8 COLLECTION. (a) A select interim committee is created to study the  
9 feasibility of collecting data and maintaining a searchable  
10 electronic database, search engine, or other collection of data  
11 (data collection) relating to specialized technology research  
12 projects that are developed or conducted at public universities in  
13 this state, research facilities of public universities in this  
14 state, or other facilities operated by a state agency, in order to  
15 facilitate coordination among the universities and facilities on  
16 the projects and improve access to and awareness of the specialized  
17 research and technologies developed at those institutions and  
18 facilities.

19 (b) The study must consider:

20 (1) appropriate entities to administer the data  
21 collection, including nonprofit organizations, public universities  
22 in this state, or state agencies;

23 (2) the extent of legislative oversight required for  
24 an entity that would maintain the data collection;

1           (3) compliance with state and federal laws regarding  
2 access to public information; and

3           (4) the information the data collection would include,  
4 such as:

5           (A) a list of projects involving one or more of  
6 the following areas:

7                   (i) energy research, including methods of  
8 creation, storage, distribution, and conservation of energy;

9                   (ii) biomedical science research;

10                   (iii) nanotechnology research, including  
11 nanomedicine; and

12                   (iv) other specialized technology  
13 research;

14           (B) for each project listed under Paragraph (A),  
15 a brief description of the project, including the field of  
16 technology involved, the entity involved with the project, and  
17 additional comments regarding the research the board considers  
18 appropriate; and

19           (C) other relevant information and available  
20 resources in this state relating to specialized technology  
21 research, including:

22                   (i) expert faculty or research personnel;

23                   (ii) available technology and patents  
24 obtained;

25                   (iii) the location of and policies for the  
26 use of available research equipment; and

27                   (iv) public grants or contracts awarded.

1           (c) The study shall examine the current state of access to  
2 public information about specialized technology research projects  
3 and shall assess the best methods of facilitating access to the  
4 information. In addition, the study shall consider what information  
5 should be accessible by the general public and what information, if  
6 any, should have restricted access.

7           (d) The committee shall be composed of:

8                 (1) representatives of the following institutions,  
9 with one member named by each institution: The University of Texas  
10 at Austin, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, the  
11 University of Houston, the University of North Texas, The  
12 University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at  
13 Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, and The University of  
14 Texas at San Antonio; and

15                 (2) a number of members appointed by the Texas Higher  
16 Education Coordinating Board as the coordinating board considers  
17 appropriate to represent the coordinating board, data collection  
18 providers, and the technology industry.

19           (e) On the request of the committee, a general academic  
20 institution of higher education, research facility of a general  
21 academic institution of higher education, or other facility  
22 operated by a state agency shall provide to the board or advisory  
23 committee any information necessary for the board or advisory  
24 committee to perform its duties under this section.

25           SECTION 2. COMMITTEE REPORT. Not later than December 1,  
26 2010, the committee shall report the committee's findings and  
27 recommendations to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the

1 house of representatives, and the governor. The committee shall  
2 include in its recommendations specific legislation that the  
3 committee considers desirable to address the need for and  
4 feasibility of establishing a data collection as determined by the  
5 committee's findings.

6 SECTION 3. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The committee is  
7 abolished and this Act expires January 16, 2011.

8 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
9 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
10 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
11 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
12 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.