

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1600

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
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  
9 the 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 including research that involves stem cells or human cloning;

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

13                           (iv) other specialized technology  
14 research;

15                   (B) for each project listed under Paragraph (A)  
16 of this subdivision, a brief description of the project, including  
17 the field of technology involved, the entity involved with the  
18 project, and additional comments regarding the research the Texas  
19 Higher Education Coordinating Board considers appropriate; and

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

23                           (i) expert faculty or research personnel;

24                           (ii) available technology and patents  
25 obtained;

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

1 (iv) public grants or contracts awarded;  
2 and

3 (v) the process through which any stem  
4 cells and stem cell lines utilized were derived.

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

11 (d) The committee shall be composed of:

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

19 (2) a number of members appointed by the Texas Higher  
20 Education Coordinating Board as the coordinating board considers  
21 appropriate to represent the coordinating board, data collection  
22 providers, and the technology industry.

23 (e) On the request of the committee, a general academic  
24 institution of higher education, research facility of a general  
25 academic institution of higher education, or other facility  
26 operated by a state agency shall provide to the Texas Higher  
27 Education Coordinating Board or advisory committee any information

1 necessary for the board or advisory committee to perform its duties  
2 under this section.

3           SECTION 2. COMMITTEE REPORT. Not later than December 1,  
4 2010, the committee shall report the committee's findings and  
5 recommendations to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the  
6 house of representatives, and the governor. The committee shall  
7 include in its recommendations specific legislation that the  
8 committee considers desirable to address the need for and  
9 feasibility of establishing a data collection as determined by the  
10 committee's findings.

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

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