

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1600

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1600:

By: Strama

C.S.S.B. No. 1600

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
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 university
13 systems, with one member named by each system: The University of
14 Texas System, The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Tech
15 University System, the University of Houston System, and the
16 University of North Texas System; and

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

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

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

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

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