

1-1 By: Watson S.B. No. 1600
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2009; March 17, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 30, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; April 30, 2009,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1600 By: Duncan

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to an interim study on the creation of a data collection to
1-11 track specialized technology research projects conducted by public
1-12 universities, public university research facilities, and other
1-13 state institutions.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. INTERIM STUDY REGARDING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DATA
1-16 COLLECTION. (a) A select interim committee is created to study
1-17 the feasibility of collecting data and maintaining a searchable
1-18 electronic database, search engine, or other collection of data
1-19 (data collection) relating to specialized technology research
1-20 projects that are developed or conducted at public universities in
1-21 this state, research facilities of public universities in this
1-22 state, or other facilities operated by a state agency, in order to
1-23 facilitate coordination among the universities and facilities on
1-24 the projects and improve access to and awareness of the specialized
1-25 research and technologies developed at those institutions and
1-26 facilities.

1-27 (b) The study must consider:

1-28 (1) appropriate entities to administer the data
1-29 collection, including nonprofit organizations, public universities
1-30 in this state, or state agencies;

1-31 (2) the extent of legislative oversight required for
1-32 an entity that would maintain the data collection;

1-33 (3) compliance with state and federal laws regarding
1-34 access to public information; and

1-35 (4) the information the data collection would include,
1-36 such as:

1-37 (A) a list of projects involving one or more of
1-38 the following areas:

1-39 (i) energy research, including methods of
1-40 creation, storage, distribution, and conservation of energy;

1-41 (ii) biomedical science research;

1-42 (iii) nanotechnology research, including
1-43 nanomedicine; and

1-44 (iv) other specialized technology
1-45 research;

1-46 (B) for each project listed under Paragraph (A)
1-47 of this subdivision, a brief description of the project, including
1-48 the field of technology involved, the entity involved with the
1-49 project, and additional comments regarding the research the Texas
1-50 Higher Education Coordinating Board considers appropriate; and

1-51 (C) other relevant information and available
1-52 resources in this state relating to specialized technology
1-53 research, including:

1-54 (i) expert faculty or research personnel;

1-55 (ii) available technology and patents
1-56 obtained;

1-57 (iii) the location of and policies for the
1-58 use of available research equipment; and

1-59 (iv) public grants or contracts awarded.

1-60 (c) The study shall examine the current state of access to
1-61 public information about specialized technology research projects
1-62 and shall assess the best methods of facilitating access to the
1-63 information. In addition, the study shall consider what

2-1 information should be accessible by the general public and what
2-2 information, if any, should have restricted access.

2-3 (d) The committee shall be composed of:

2-4 (1) representatives of the following institutions,
2-5 with one member named by each institution: The University of Texas
2-6 at Austin, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, the
2-7 University of Houston, the University of North Texas, The
2-8 University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at
2-9 Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, and The University of
2-10 Texas at San Antonio; and

2-11 (2) a number of members appointed by the Texas Higher
2-12 Education Coordinating Board as the coordinating board considers
2-13 appropriate to represent the coordinating board, data collection
2-14 providers, and the technology industry.

2-15 (e) On the request of the committee, a general academic
2-16 institution of higher education, research facility of a general
2-17 academic institution of higher education, or other facility
2-18 operated by a state agency shall provide to the Texas Higher
2-19 Education Coordinating Board or advisory committee any information
2-20 necessary for the board or advisory committee to perform its duties
2-21 under this section.

2-22 SECTION 2. COMMITTEE REPORT. Not later than December 1,
2-23 2010, the committee shall report the committee's findings and
2-24 recommendations to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
2-25 house of representatives, and the governor. The committee shall
2-26 include in its recommendations specific legislation that the
2-27 committee considers desirable to address the need for and
2-28 feasibility of establishing a data collection as determined by the
2-29 committee's findings.

2-30 SECTION 3. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The committee is
2-31 abolished and this Act expires January 16, 2011.

2-32 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
2-33 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
2-34 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
2-35 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
2-36 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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