

By: J. Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 2520

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2520:

By: Munoz, Jr.

C.S.H.B. No. 2520

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the linking of data regarding specialized technology  
3 research projects conducted by general academic teaching  
4 institutions and other state agencies.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 61.0823 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0823. STATEWIDE SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH  
9 DATA. (a) The purpose of this section is to enhance research  
10 coordination and expand research collaborations among general  
11 academic teaching institutions and other state agencies in one or  
12 more of the following specialized technology areas:

13 (1) energy research, including methods of creation,  
14 storage, distribution, and conservation of energy;

15 (2) biomedical science research; and

16 (3) nanotechnology research, including nanomedicine.

17 (b) The board shall facilitate the linking of data relating  
18 to specialized technology research projects that are developed or  
19 conducted at general academic teaching institutions, including any  
20 research facilities associated with those institutions, and at  
21 research facilities of state agencies other than institutions of  
22 higher education. To the greatest extent possible, the links shall  
23 be established using existing information systems of the  
24 institutions and at the lowest reasonable cost.

1       (c) The board, in consultation with the institutions and  
2 agencies, shall determine the type of projects and research areas  
3 to be included and prescribe the level and type of data to be  
4 linked, including:

5           (1) faculty data, such as the researcher's name,  
6 position, area of research interest, grants, and intellectual  
7 property; and

8           (2) facility descriptions, such as the facility's  
9 purpose, capability, physical location, availability under fee for  
10 service, and contact information.

11       (d) The board shall implement this section in phases in  
12 regard to participating institutions and agencies and in regard to  
13 projects and research areas to be included. Implementation shall  
14 begin with the general academic teaching institutions identified as  
15 national research universities and emerging research universities.

16       (e) The board and each participating institution or agency  
17 shall execute a memorandum of understanding governing the linkage  
18 of data under this section. The memorandum of understanding shall  
19 address the administration of the linking of data, which may be  
20 performed by a nonprofit entity created for that purpose, the  
21 sharing of costs for implementation of this section, and other  
22 matters determined by the board and the participating institution  
23 or agency. Data collection and management shall remain the  
24 responsibility of the respective participating institution or  
25 agency.

26       (f) The board shall establish an advisory committee  
27 composed of representatives of participating institutions and

1 agencies to advise and assist the board in implementing this  
2 section.

3 (g) The board and the participating institutions and  
4 agencies shall allow access to the linked information consistent  
5 with state and federal laws regarding access to public information.  
6 This section does not create or affect an exception to public  
7 information laws.

8 (h) The board may adopt rules for the administration of this  
9 section.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.