

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1497

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to certain responsibilities of education research centers  
3 and to a joint advisory board for education research centers.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 1.005, Education Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsections (l) and (m) to read  
7 as follows:

8 (e) A center shall conduct research for the benefit of  
9 education in this state, including research relating to the impact  
10 of state and federal education programs, the performance of  
11 educator preparation programs, public school finance, and the best  
12 practices of school districts with regard to classroom instruction,  
13 bilingual education programs, special language programs, and  
14 business practices. A center shall support policy and academic  
15 research, including support of attainment of doctoral degrees in  
16 this state.

17 (l) Each center shall adopt and, after approval by the joint  
18 advisory board as provided for under Section 1.006(e)(4),  
19 administer a process for reviewing research proposals and  
20 forwarding to the joint advisory board only proposals of high  
21 quality.

22 (m) On behalf of a center, the commissioner of education and  
23 the coordinating board may pursue and enter data reciprocity  
24 agreements with:

1           (1) another agency of this state; and

2           (2) the state education agency of another state,  
3 giving priority to the agencies of those states that send the  
4 highest number of students to this state or that receive the highest  
5 number of students from this state.

6           SECTION 2. Chapter 1, Education Code, is amended by adding  
7 Section 1.006 to read as follows:

8           Sec. 1.006. JOINT ADVISORY BOARD FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH  
9 CENTERS. (a) In this section, "center" means a center for education  
10 research authorized by Section 1.005.

11           (b) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of  
12 higher education shall co-chair a joint advisory board to adopt  
13 policies governing the operations of the centers, including a  
14 process for review and approval of center research involving  
15 confidential information. The commissioner of education and the  
16 commissioner of higher education each may delegate duties as  
17 co-chair, including voting, to an employee of the Texas Education  
18 Agency or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as  
19 appropriate.

20           (c) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of  
21 higher education shall jointly appoint not more than 10 additional  
22 members to the joint advisory board to serve one-year terms. A  
23 member of the joint advisory board serves at the pleasure of the  
24 commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education.  
25 A member may be reappointed each year to an additional term.

26           (d) The joint advisory board shall meet at the call of the  
27 co-chairs at least twice each year.

1       (e) The joint advisory board shall:

2               (1) establish a schedule of fees to fund the cost of  
3 data processing by the Texas Education Agency;

4               (2) develop a plan for establishing access at public  
5 institutions of higher education to center research;

6               (3) develop policies to give state agencies acting for  
7 a governmental purpose and public entities performing studies  
8 authorized by the legislature priority in access to and use of  
9 center research;

10              (4) provide for approving a process developed under  
11 Section 1.005(1) for reviewing center research proposals and  
12 forwarding only proposals of high quality to the joint advisory  
13 board;

14              (5) identify, in consultation with each center, the  
15 type of data that the Texas Education Agency sends annually to each  
16 center without the necessity of a request for that data by a center  
17 and a schedule on which the data is sent; and

18              (6) perform other duties as necessary to advise each  
19 center.

20       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.