By: J. Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 44

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

	AN ACT

- 2 relating to the Texas emerging technology fund; redesignating the
- 3 fund as the Texas Research Technology Fund.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
- 5 SECTION 1. Sections 490.001(1), (2), and (4), Government
- 6 Code, are amended to read as follows:
- 7 (1) "Board" ["Committee"] means the Texas Research
- 8 [Emerging] Technology Fund Board [Advisory Committee].
- 9 (2) "Fund" means the Texas Research Technology Fund
- 10 [emerging technology fund].
- 11 (4) "Award" means:
- 12 (A) for purposes of Subchapter D, an investment
- 13 in the form of equity or a convertible note;
- 14 (B) for purposes of Subchapter E, an investment
- 15 in the form of a debt instrument;
- 16 (C) for purposes of Subchapter F, a grant; or
- 17 (D) other forms of contribution or investment as
- 18 recommended by the \underline{board} [committee] and approved by the governor,
- 19 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.
- SECTION 2. Section 490.003, Government Code, is amended to
- 21 read as follows:
- Sec. 490.003. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES. (a) An
- 23 emerging technology industry participant may be [is] eligible for
- 24 funding under this chapter if the activity to be funded:

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(1) will result in the creation of high-quality new
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   jobs in this state, immediately or over a longer period; [ex]
                    has the potential to result in a medical or
 3
   scientific breakthrough or a breakthrough in the area of clean
 4
 5
   energy; or
 6
               (3) will result in the commercialization of a
 7
   scientific breakthrough derived from research conducted at or owned
8
   by a research institution.
 9
              Emerging technology industries include industries
   related to:
10
               (1)
                    semiconductors;
11
12
               (2)
                    information;
                    computer and software technology;
13
               (3)
14
               (4)
                    energy;
15
               (5)
                    manufactured energy systems;
16
                    micro-electromechanical systems;
               (6)
17
               (7) nanotechnology;
               (8)
                    biotechnology;
18
                    medicine;
19
               (9)
20
               (10)
                    life sciences;
21
               (11)
                    petroleum refining and chemical processes;
               (12)
2.2
                    aerospace;
                     defense; [and]
23
               (13)
24
               (14)
                     water; and
25
               (15) other pursuits, as determined by the governor in
26
   consultation with the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the
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house of representatives.

- 1 SECTION 3. Sections 490.005(a) and (b), Government Code,
- 2 are amended to read as follows:
- 3 (a) Not later than January 31 of each year, the governor
- 4 shall submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
- 5 representatives, and the standing committee of each house of the
- 6 legislature with primary jurisdiction over economic development
- 7 matters and post on the office of the governor's Internet website a
- 8 report that includes the following information regarding awards
- 9 made under the fund during each preceding state fiscal year:
- 10 (1) the total number and amount of awards made;
- 11 (2) the number and amount of awards made under
- 12 Subchapters D, E, and F;
- 13 (3) the aggregate total of private sector investment,
- 14 federal government funding, and contributions from other sources
- 15 obtained in connection with awards made under each of the
- 16 subchapters listed in Subdivision (2);
- 17 (4) the name of each award recipient and the amount of
- 18 the award made to the recipient; [and]
- 19 (5) a brief description of the equity position that
- 20 the governor, on behalf of the state, may take in companies
- 21 receiving awards and the names of the companies in which the state
- 22 has taken an equity position; and
- 23 (6) a description of the types of securities the
- 24 governor, on behalf of the state, has taken in companies that have
- 25 received an award.
- 26 (b) The annual report must also contain:
- 27 (1) the aggregate total number of jobs, broken down

- 1 according to the industry sectors described by Section 490.003(b),
- 2 actually created by <u>all projects</u> [each project] receiving funding
- 3 under this chapter;
- 4 (2) an analysis of the number of jobs, broken down
- 5 according to the industry sectors described by Section 490.003(b),
- 6 actually created by <u>all projects</u> [each project] receiving funding
- 7 under this chapter; [and]
- 8 (3) a brief description regarding:
- 9 (A) the methodology used to determine the
- 10 information provided under Subdivisions (1) and (2), which may be
- 11 developed in consultation with the comptroller's office;
- 12 (B) the intended outcomes of projects funded
- 13 under Subchapter D during each preceding state fiscal year; and
- 14 (C) the actual outcomes of all projects funded
- 15 under Subchapter D during each preceding state fiscal year,
- 16 including any financial impact on the state resulting from a
- 17 liquidity event involving a company whose project was funded under
- 18 that subchapter;
- 19 <u>(4)</u> the total number of jobs created by each project
- 20 receiving funds under this chapter, expressed;
- 21 (A) in increments of 10 jobs created by the
- 22 project; or
- (B) as a number that is within five percent over
- 24 or under the total number of jobs created by the project; and
- 25 (5) the average annual salaries in the award
- 26 recipients' industries.
- 27 SECTION 4. The heading to Subchapter B, Chapter 490,

- 1 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:
- 2 SUBCHAPTER B. TEXAS RESEARCH [EMERGING] TECHNOLOGY FUND BOARD
- 3 [ADVISORY COMMITTEE]
- 4 SECTION 5. Section 490.051, Government Code, is amended to
- 5 read as follows:
- 6 Sec. 490.051. TEXAS RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY FUND BOARD
- 7 [COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE]. (a) The Texas Research [Emerging]
- 8 Technology Fund Board is administratively attached to the office of
- 9 the governor. The governor's office shall provide staff and other
- 10 administrative support for the board.
- 11 <u>(b) The board</u> [Advisory Committee] is composed of 17
- 12 members.
- SECTION 6. The heading to Section 490.052, Government Code,
- 14 is amended to read as follows:
- 15 Sec. 490.052. APPOINTMENT TO BOARD [COMMITTEE];
- 16 NOMINATIONS.
- 17 SECTION 7. Sections 490.052(a), (a-1), (a-2), and (b),
- 18 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:
- 19 (a) The governor shall appoint to the board [committee] 13
- 20 individuals nominated as provided by Subsection (b).
- 21 (a-1) The lieutenant governor shall appoint two individuals
- 22 to the board [committee].
- 23 (a-2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall
- 24 appoint two individuals to the board [committee].
- 25 (b) The following persons may nominate one or more
- 26 individuals who are industry leaders in this state or who are
- 27 nationally recognized leaders from public or private institutions

- 1 of higher education in this state for appointment to the board
- 2 [committee]:
- 3 (1) a president of a public or private institution of
- 4 higher education in this state;
- 5 (2) a representative of the governor's office involved
- 6 in economic development activities;
- 7 (3) a representative of the lieutenant governor's
- 8 office involved in economic development activities;
- 9 (4) a representative of the office of the speaker of
- 10 the house involved in economic development activities; and
- 11 (5) other persons considered appropriate by the
- 12 governor, lieutenant governor, or speaker of the house of
- 13 representatives.
- SECTION 8. Section 490.0521(a), Government Code, is amended
- 15 to read as follows:
- 16 (a) Each member of the board [committee] shall file with the
- 17 office of the governor a verified financial statement complying
- 18 with Sections 572.022 through 572.0252 as is required of a state
- 19 officer by Section 572.0252.
- SECTION 9. Subchapter B, Chapter 490, Government Code, is
- 21 amended by adding Section 490.0522 to read as follows:
- Sec. 490.0522. COMPENSATION; EXPENSES. Members of the
- 23 board serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement
- 24 for actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending board
- 25 meetings or in performing other board duties approved by the office
- 26 of the governor.
- SECTION 10. Section 490.053, Government Code, is amended to

- 1 read as follows:
- 2 Sec. 490.053. PRESIDING MEMBER. The governor shall appoint
- 3 a presiding member of the board [committee].
- 4 SECTION 11. Section 490.054, Government Code, is amended to
- 5 read as follows:
- 6 Sec. 490.054. TERMS. (a) Members of the <u>board</u> [committee]
- 7 appointed by the governor serve staggered two-year terms, with as
- 8 near as possible to one-half of the members' terms expiring each
- 9 year, subject to the pleasure of the governor.
- 10 (b) Members of the <u>board</u> [committee] appointed by the
- 11 lieutenant governor or the speaker of the house of representatives
- 12 serve two-year terms.
- 13 (c) Members of the board are not state officers.
- 14 SECTION 12. Section 490.055, Government Code, is amended to
- 15 read as follows:
- Sec. 490.055. STAFF AND FUNDING. Necessary staff and
- 17 funding for the administration of the fund shall be provided by:
- 18 (1) the office of the governor; [and]
- 19 (2) gifts, grants, and donations for overhead expenses
- 20 to the office of the governor; and
- 21 (3) the fund as provided by Section 490.101.
- SECTION 13. Section 490.056, Government Code, is amended by
- 23 amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (a-1) to
- 24 read as follows:
- 25 (a) The board [committee] shall make recommendations,
- 26 through peer review and evaluation processes established by the
- 27 board [committee], to the governor, lieutenant governor, and

- 1 speaker of the house of representatives for the award of money from
- 2 the fund <u>under Subchapters E and F</u> as provided by this chapter.
- 3 (a-1) Regional centers of innovation and commercialization
- 4 formed under Subchapter I shall make recommendations to the board
- 5 for the award of money from the fund under Subchapter D as provided
- 6 by this chapter.
- 7 (c) Each entity recommended by <u>a regional center of</u>
- 8 $\underline{\text{innovation and commercialization}}$ [the committee] for an award of
- 9 money from the fund under Subchapter D as provided by this chapter
- 10 shall obtain and provide the following information to the office of
- 11 the governor:
- 12 (1) a federal criminal history background check for
- 13 each principal of the entity;
- 14 (2) a state criminal history background check for each
- 15 principal of the entity;
- 16 (3) a credit check for each principal of the entity;
- 17 (4) a copy of a government-issued form of photo
- 18 identification for each principal of the entity; and
- 19 (5) information regarding whether the entity or a
- 20 principal of the entity has ever been subject to a sanction imposed
- 21 by the Securities and Exchange Commission for a violation of
- 22 applicable federal law.
- SECTION 14. Section 490.057, Government Code, is amended to
- 24 read as follows:
- Sec. 490.057. CONFIDENTIALITY. (a) Except as provided by
- 26 Subsection (b), information collected or received by the governor's
- 27 office, the board [committee], or the board's [committee's]

- 1 advisory panels concerning the [identity,] background, finances
- 2 [finance], marketing plans, trade secrets, or other commercially or
- 3 academically sensitive information of an individual or entity
- 4 having applied for, being considered for, receiving, or having
- 5 received an award from the fund is confidential unless the
- 6 individual or entity consents to disclosure of the information.
- 7 (b) The following information collected by the governor's
- 8 office, the board [committee], or the board's [committee's]
- 9 advisory panels under this chapter is public information and may be
- 10 disclosed under Chapter 552:
- 11 (1) the name and address of an individual or entity
- 12 receiving or having received an award from the fund;
- 13 (2) the amount of funding received by an award
- 14 recipient from the fund;
- 15 (3) a brief description of the project that is funded
- 16 under this chapter;
- 17 (4) if applicable, [a brief description of] the type
- 18 of equity [position] that the governor, on behalf of the state, has
- 19 taken in an entity that has received an award from the fund; [and]
- 20 (5) any other information [designated by the
- 21 committee] with the consent of [+
- 22 [(A)] the individual or entity [receiving or
- 23 having received an award from the fund, as applicable]; and
- 24 (6) any other information otherwise available to the
- 25 public
- 26 [(B) the governor;
- 27 [(C) the lieutenant governor; and

- 1 [(D) the speaker of the house of
- 2 representatives].
- 3 SECTION 15. Subchapter B, Chapter 490, Government Code, is
- 4 amended by adding Sections 490.058, 490.059, and 490.060 to read as
- 5 follows:
- 6 Sec. 490.058. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES. The board
- 7 shall develop and implement policies that clearly separate the
- 8 policy-making responsibilities of the board and the management
- 9 responsibilities of the staff of the board.
- Sec. 490.059. APPLICABILITY OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW. The
- 11 board is subject to Chapter 551.
- 12 Sec. 490.060. MEETINGS. (a) The board shall hold four
- 13 regular meetings each year and special meetings at the call of the
- 14 presiding member.
- 15 (b) Notwithstanding Chapter 551 or any other law, the board
- 16 may use a telephone conference call, videoconference, or other
- 17 similar telecommunication method in accordance with this section to
- 18 establish a quorum, to hold an open or closed meeting, to vote, or
- 19 for any other meeting purpose. This subsection applies without
- 20 regard to the subject matter discussed or considered by the board at
- 21 the meeting.
- 22 <u>(c) A meeting held by telephone conference call,</u>
- 23 <u>videoconference</u>, or other similar telecommunication method:
- 24 (1) is subject to the notice requirements applicable
- 25 to other board meetings;
- 26 (2) may not be held unless notice of the meeting
- 27 specifies the location where the public may observe the meeting;

- 1 <u>and</u>
- 2 (3) must be open and audible to the public at the
- 3 <u>location specified in the notice under Subdivision (2) during the</u>
- 4 open portions of the meeting.
- 5 (d) The board may conduct a closed meeting under Section
- 6 551.101 to:
- 7 (1) discuss or consider a matter that contains
- 8 information that is confidential under Section 490.057; or
- 9 (2) hear testimony or presentations from an
- 10 individual, entity, or group that contains information that is
- 11 confidential under Section 490.057.
- 12 (e) This section does not prohibit the board from requesting
- 13 the attendance at a closed meeting of a person who is not a member of
- 14 the board and who has information regarding an applicant for or
- 15 recipient of an award from the fund.
- 16 SECTION 16. The heading to Subchapter C, Chapter 490,
- 17 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:
- SUBCHAPTER C. TEXAS RESEARCH [EMERGING] TECHNOLOGY FUND
- 19 SECTION 17. The heading to Section 490.101, Government
- 20 Code, is amended to read as follows:
- Sec. 490.101. TEXAS <u>RESEARCH</u> [<u>EMERCING</u>] TECHNOLOGY FUND.
- 22 SECTION 18. Sections 490.101(a), (c), (d), (f), and (f-1),
- 23 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:
- 24 (a) The Texas Research Technology Fund [emerging technology
- 25 fund is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund.
- 26 (c) The fund may be used only [for]:
- 27 (1) for the purposes described by Section 490.002;

1 [and]

- 2 (2) for necessary staff, administration of the fund
- 3 including administration by the office of the governor, and
- 4 services and expenses related to the fund as provided for by Section
- 5 490.055; and
- 6 (3) to compensate the fund manager under Section
- 7 490.157.
- 8 (d) The \underline{board} [$\underline{committee}$] may solicit and accept gifts and
- 9 grants for the fund from public and private entities.
- 10 (f) The administration of the fund is considered to be a
- 11 trusteed program within the office of the governor. The governor
- 12 may negotiate on behalf of the state regarding awards from the fund.
- 13 The governor may award money appropriated from the fund for awards
- 14 under Subchapters E and F only with the prior approval of the
- 15 lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of representatives.
- 16 The governor may award money appropriated from the fund for awards
- 17 under Subchapter D or may allocate money from the fund for use as
- 18 provided by Subchapter I, only with the prior approval of the board.
- 19 (f-1) For purposes of Subsection (f), an award of money
- 20 appropriated from the fund for awards under Subchapters E and F is
- 21 considered disapproved by the lieutenant governor or speaker of the
- 22 house of representatives if that officer does not approve the
- 23 proposal to award funding before the 91st day after the date of
- 24 receipt of the proposal from the governor. The lieutenant governor
- 25 or the speaker of the house of representatives may extend the review
- 26 deadline applicable to that officer for an additional 14 days by
- 27 submitting a written notice to that effect to the governor before

- 1 the expiration of the initial review period.
- 2 SECTION 19. Section 490.102(a), Government Code, is amended
- 3 to read as follows:
- 4 (a) Money appropriated to or otherwise deposited to the fund
- 5 under Section 490.101(b), including money retained in the fund from
- 6 <u>a previous biennium</u> [by the legislature], less amounts necessary to
- 7 administer the fund under Section 490.055, shall be allocated as
- 8 follows:
- 9 (1) 46 [50] percent of the money for incentives for
- 10 collaboration between certain entities as provided by Subchapter D;
- 11 (2) 16.67 percent of the money for research award
- 12 matching as provided by Subchapter E; [and]
- 13 (3) 33.33 percent of the money for acquisition of
- 14 research superiority as provided by Subchapter F; and
- 15 (4) four percent of the money for regional centers of
- 16 innovation and commercialization as provided by Subchapter I.
- 17 SECTION 20. Section 490.151, Government Code, is amended by
- 18 adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as
- 19 follows:
- 20 (a-1) The following private and nonprofit entities are
- 21 eligible for incentives under this subchapter:
- 22 (1) a private entity that is partially owned by an
- 23 institution of higher education and is seeking to commercialize
- 24 technology acquired from the partnering institution;
- 25 (2) a private entity that is a qualified spin-out, as
- 26 determined by the board, of an institution of higher education;
- 27 (3) a private entity seeking to commercialize

- 1 technology acquired from the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center of the
- 2 National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- 3 (4) a private or nonprofit entity partnering with a
- 4 research institution through a sponsored research agreement or
- 5 qualified collaborative agreement; or
- 6 (5) a private entity that has received an award under
- 7 this chapter and has received an equity investment commitment from
- 8 a qualified investor, as determined by the board, for
- 9 commercialization and growth purposes.
- 10 (b) The <u>regional centers of innovation and</u>
- 11 <u>commercialization formed under Subchapter I [committee</u>] shall
- 12 recommend proposals eligible for funding under this subchapter
- 13 [section] to the board [governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker
- 14 of the house of representatives].
- SECTION 21. Section 490.154(a), Government Code, is amended
- 16 to read as follows:
- 17 (a) An entity participating in a regional center of
- 18 innovation and commercialization formed under Subchapter I that
- 19 receives funding or another incentive under this subchapter shall
- 20 guarantee by contract with the governor's office that the entity
- 21 will perform specific actions expected to provide benefits to this
- 22 state.
- SECTION 22. Subchapter D, Chapter 490, Government Code, is
- 24 amended by adding Section 490.157 to read as follows:
- Sec. 490.157. FUND MANAGER. (a) The office of the governor
- 26 shall employ or contract with a fund manager to manage equity
- 27 positions or other investments received by the office of the

- 1 governor in consideration for an award made. The fund manager shall
- 2 perform such duties for the purpose of managing equity positions or
- 3 other investments made under this subchapter.
- 4 (b) The board may recommend an entity or individual to the
- 5 office of the governor to serve as the fund manager under Subsection
- 6 (a). The board may also recommend to the office of the governor:
- 7 (1) the duties of the fund manager;
- 8 (2) the appropriate compensation of the fund manager;
- 9 and
- 10 (3) the termination of the employment of or contract
- 11 with the fund manager.
- 12 SECTION 23. Chapter 490, Government Code, is amended by
- 13 adding Subchapter I, and a heading is added to that subchapter to
- 14 read as follows:
- 15 <u>SUBCHAPTER I. REGIONAL CENTERS OF</u>
- 16 <u>INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION</u>
- SECTION 24. Sections 490.152 and 490.1521, Government Code,
- 18 are transferred to Subchapter I, Chapter 490, Government Code, as
- 19 added by this Act, redesignated as Sections 490.401 and 490.402,
- 20 Government Code, and amended to read as follows:
- 21 Sec. <u>490.401</u> [490.152]. <u>USE OF MONEY FOR REGIONAL CENTERS</u>
- 22 OF INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION. (a) Amounts allocated from
- 23 the fund for use as provided by this subchapter may be used by an
- 24 entity described by Section 490.151(a) or an [In recommending
- 25 proposals for funding, the committee shall give specific emphasis
- 26 to the formation of regional centers of innovation and
- 27 commercialization.

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- 1 [(b) An] appropriate combination of any entities described
- 2 by that subsection [Section 490.151(a) may collaborate] to form and
- 3 <u>maintain</u> a regional center of innovation and commercialization to
- 4 serve a region of this state.
- 5 (b) [(c)] A regional center of innovation and
- 6 commercialization shall provide for a specified region:
- 7 (1) research and development activities that may
- 8 include initiatives to prove the feasibility of an idea;
- 9 (2) commercialization of the results of research and
- 10 development;
- 11 (3) incubators for new businesses and expansion of
- 12 existing businesses related to research and development; and
- 13 (4) workforce training for businesses resulting from
- 14 research and development.
- 15 $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ [$\frac{\text{(d)}}{\text{(d)}}$] Subject to the availability of suitable partners
- 16 and resources, the board [committee] shall propose and initiate the
- 17 establishment of a regional center of innovation and
- 18 commercialization in:
- 19 (1) Harris County;
- 20 (2) Lubbock County;
- 21 (3) Bexar County;
- 22 (4) the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex;
- 23 (5) El Paso County;
- 24 (6) the Middle and Lower Rio Grande Valley; and
- 25 (7) other suitable locations as determined by the
- 26 governor in consultation with the lieutenant governor and the
- 27 speaker of the house of representatives.

- 1 Sec. 490.402 [490.1521]. MINUTES OF CERTAIN MEETINGS.
- 2 (a) Each regional center of innovation and commercialization
- 3 established under Section 490.401 [490.152, including the Texas
- 4 Life Science Center for Innovation and Commercialization, shall
- 5 keep minutes of each meeting at which applications for funding
- 6 under $\underline{\text{Subchapter D}}$ [this subchapter] are evaluated. The minutes
- 7 must:
- 8 (1) include the name of each applicant recommended by
- 9 the regional center of innovation and commercialization to the
- 10 <u>board</u> [committee] for funding <u>under Subchapter D</u>; and
- 11 (2) indicate the vote of each member of the governing
- 12 body of the regional center of innovation and commercialization,
- 13 including any recusal by a member and the member's reason for
- 14 recusal, with regard to each application reviewed.
- 15 (b) Each regional center of innovation and
- 16 commercialization shall retain a copy of the minutes of each
- 17 meeting to which this section applies for at least three years.
- SECTION 25. Section 490.201(b), Government Code, is amended
- 19 to read as follows:
- 20 (b) The board [committee] shall recommend proposals
- 21 eligible for funding under this section to the governor, lieutenant
- 22 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.
- 23 SECTION 26. Section 490.253, Government Code, is amended to
- 24 read as follows:
- Sec. 490.253. PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING. (a) The board
- 26 [committee] shall review and consider proposals by research
- 27 institutions for:

- 1 (1) creating new research superiority;
- 2 (2) attracting existing research superiority from
- 3 institutions not located in this state and other research entities;
- 4 or
- 5 (3) enhancing existing research superiority by
- 6 attracting from outside this state additional researchers and
- 7 resources.
- 8 (b) The board [committee] shall recommend proposals
- 9 eligible for funding under Section 490.251 and proposals solicited
- 10 and identified under this section to the governor, lieutenant
- 11 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.
- 12 SECTION 27. Section 490.257(b), Government Code, is amended
- 13 to read as follows:
- 14 (b) The governor, with the express written prior approval of
- 15 the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
- 16 representatives, may terminate funding to an institution if the
- 17 institution fails to realize a benefit specified in the contract
- 18 before a time specified in the contract, as determined by a periodic
- 19 program review conducted by the <u>board</u> [committee].
- SECTION 28. Section 50D.013(a), Agriculture Code, is
- 21 amended to read as follows:
- 22 (a) The policy council shall:
- 23 (1) provide a vision for unifying this state's
- 24 agricultural, energy, and research strengths in a successful launch
- 25 of a cellulosic biofuel and bioenergy industry;
- 26 (2) foster development of cellulosic-based and
- 27 bio-based fuels and build on the Texas Research Technology Fund's

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- 1 [emerging technology fund's] investments in leading-edge energy
- 2 research and efforts to commercialize the production of bioenergy;
- 3 (3) pursue the creation of a next-generation biofuels
- 4 energy research program at a university in this state;
- 5 (4) work to procure federal and other funding to aid
- 6 this state in becoming a bioenergy leader;
- 7 (5) study the feasibility and economic development
- 8 effect of a blending requirement for biodiesel or cellulosic fuels;
- 9 (6) pursue the development and use of thermochemical
- 10 process technologies to produce alternative chemical feedstocks;
- 11 (7) study the feasibility and economic development of
- 12 the requirements for pipeline-quality, renewable natural gas; and
- 13 (8) perform other advisory duties as requested by the
- 14 commissioner regarding the responsible development of bioenergy
- 15 resources in this state.
- SECTION 29. Section 203.021(e), Labor Code, is amended to
- 17 read as follows:
- 18 (e) Money in the compensation fund may not be transferred to
- 19 the:
- 20 (1) Texas Enterprise Fund created under Section
- 21 481.078, Government Code; or
- 22 (2) Texas Research Technology Fund [emerging
- 23 technology fund] established under Section 490.101, Government
- 24 Code.
- 25 SECTION 30. Sections 490.056(e) and 490.153(b), Government
- 26 Code, are repealed.
- 27 SECTION 31. The terms of the members of the Texas Emerging

- 1 Technology Advisory Committee serving immediately before the
- 2 effective date of this Act expire October 1, 2013.
- 3 SECTION 32. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
- 4 date of this Act:
- 5 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of
- 6 the house of representatives shall appoint members to the Texas
- 7 Research Technology Fund Board established under Subchapter B,
- 8 Chapter 490, Government Code, in a manner that complies with that
- 9 subchapter, as amended by this Act; and
- 10 (2) the governor shall appoint the initial presiding
- 11 member of the board.
- 12 (b) At the first meeting of members of the Texas Research
- 13 Technology Fund Board appointed under Subchapter B, Chapter 490,
- 14 Government Code, as amended by this Act, occurring on or after
- 15 October 1, 2013, the members appointed by the governor shall draw
- 16 lots to determine which seven members will serve terms expiring
- 17 October 1, 2014, and which six members will serve terms expiring
- 18 October 1, 2015.
- 19 SECTION 33. This Act takes effect October 1, 2013.