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     By: Creighton
                                                                      S.B. No. 1525
              (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2021; March 24, 2021, read
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     first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education; April 6, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-4
      Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 6, 2021,
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      sent to printer.)
                                     COMMITTEE VOTE
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1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Creighton	X			
1-10	West	X			
1-11	Birdwell	X			
1-12	Blanco	X			
1-13	Miles	X			
1-14	Paxton	X			
1-15	Springer	X			
1-16	Taylor	X			
1-17	Zaffirini	X			

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1525 1-18

By: Taylor

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1-20 AN ACT

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1-21 to the administration of the governor's university relating research initiative.

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

SECTION 1. Section 62.161(1), Education Code, as added by Chapters 323 (S.B. 632) and 915 (H.B. 26), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Distinguished researcher" means:

(A) an individual [a] researcher who [is]:

Medicine; or

(iii) has attained a highly prestigious

national academic recognition, as defined by office rule; or

(B) a group of researchers who have attained the recognition described by Paragraph (A)(iii), as defined by office rule.

SECTION 2. Section 62.162(b), Education Code, as added by Chapters 323 (S.B. 632) and 915 (H.B. 26), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The office in consultation with the commissioner of higher education may adopt any rules the office considers necessary to administer this subchapter. The commissioner shall recommend to the office the types of national academic recognitions that are considered to be highly prestigious for purposes of determining which individuals or groups qualify as a "distinguished researcher" under Section 62.161.

SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 62, Education Code, as added by Chapters 323 (S.B. 632) and 915 (H.B. 26), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended by adding Section 62.169 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.169. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) The university research initiative advisory board is established to assist the office with the review and evaluation of applications for funding of grant proposals under this subchapter. The advisory board shall make recommendations to the office for approval or disapproval of those applications.

(b) The advisory board must be composed of at least nine 1**-**59 members appointed by the governor. Of the members of the board: 1-60

C.S.S.B. No. 1525

one-third of the members, as nearly as possible, 2-1 (1)2-2

academic background in science, technology, have an engineering, or mathematics; and

one-third of the members, as nearly as possible, (3)

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2-35 2-36 2-37 must be public members.

(c) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the

size, composition, or duration of the advisory board.

(d) A member of the advisory board who is or has been employed by, is or has been a party to a contract for any purpose with, or is a student or former student of an applicant eligible institution may not be involved in the review, evaluation, recommendation of a grant proposal made by that institution.

An advisory board member is not required to (e)

resident of this state.

(f) Appointments to the advisory board shall be made without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin of the appointees.

(g) Members of the advisory board serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses in attending meetings of the board or performing

other official duties authorized by the office.

SECTION 4. Subchapter H, Chapter 62, Education Code, as added by Chapter 448 (H.B. 7), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular

Session, 2015, is repealed.

SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a grant application submitted to the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office in the office of the governor on or after the effective date of this Act. A grant application submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2-38 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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