88R13813 SHH-D

By:  Reynolds H.B. No. 3988

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Advanced Research Institute.

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

SECTION 1.  Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 482 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 482. TEXAS ADVANCED RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Sec. 482.001.  DEFINITION. In this chapter, "institute" means the Texas Advanced Research Institute.

Sec. 482.002.  PURPOSES. The Texas Advanced Research Institute is established in the office of the governor to:

(1)  promote advanced research efforts in all disciplines, including:

(A)  energy;

(B)  medicine; and

(C)  biotechnology;

(2)  attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in advanced research and development and in the creation of inventions and patents in this state;

(3)  ensure that this state invests and receives a return on investment in advanced research and development commensurate with the size and influence of this state's economy; and

(4)  serve as an intermediary between institutions of higher education, the private sector, and other stakeholders to develop the workforce of this state and equip that workforce with skills and credentials for the jobs and professions of the future, including technical skills.

Sec. 482.003.  SUNSET PROVISION. The Texas Advanced Research Institute is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the institute is abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2035.

Sec. 482.004.  POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The institute:

(1)  may make grants to provide funding to public or private persons to conduct research and development with the objective of advancing knowledge, creating intellectual property, and identifying commercial opportunities to monetize the products resulting from advanced research and development;

(2)  shall coordinate with participating public and private persons to develop the Texas Advanced Research Plan;

(3)  may support institutions of higher education, advanced research facilities, and collaborations in this state in all stages in the process of conducting and exploiting advanced research and development;

(4)  may establish the appropriate standards and oversight bodies to ensure the proper use of funds authorized under this chapter for advanced research and development;

(5)  shall continuously monitor contracts and agreements authorized by this chapter and ensure that each grant recipient complies with the terms and conditions of the grant contract;

(6)  shall ensure that all grant proposals comply with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter before the proposals are granted approval; and

(7)  shall establish procedures to document that the institute, its employees, and council members appointed under this chapter comply with all laws governing the academic peer review process and conflicts of interest where applicable.

(b)  The institute shall implement the Texas Advanced Research Plan and continually monitor and revise the plan as necessary.

Sec. 482.005.  LEADERSHIP, STAFF, AND RESOURCES. (a) The institute is governed by a council of nine members appointed by the governor.

(b)  Members of the council serve staggered six-year terms with one-third of the members' terms expiring on February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

(c)  The governor shall designate a member as the president of the council to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

(d)  The office of the governor shall provide the institute with necessary staff and resources to perform the institute's duties under this chapter.

Sec. 482.006.  DUTIES OF COUNCIL. (a) The council shall select the recipients of any grants awarded by the institute.

(b)  The council may conduct surveys, research, or investigations for the purposes of the institute.

Sec. 482.007.  MEETINGS. The council shall meet at least once each year at the call of the president.

Sec. 482.008.  FUNDING. (a) The institute may receive state-appropriated funds for the purpose of supporting the activities of the institute.

(b)  The institute may solicit, accept, and use gifts, grants, and donations from public and private sources for the purposes of this chapter, subject only to limitations contained in the gifts, grants, or donations.

(c)  The institute may receive funding in the form of royalties, license fees, and profits resulting from inventions, discoveries, and products developed by or in partnership with, or coordinated through, the institute.

SECTION 2.  In appointing the initial members of the council of the Texas Advanced Research Institute, the governor shall appoint three members for terms expiring February 1, 2025, three members for terms expiring February 1, 2027, and three members for terms expiring February 1, 2029.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.