

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 4762

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4762:

By: Wilson

C.S.H.B. No. 4762

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to establishing the Higher Education Research Security
3 Council.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 51.957 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.957. HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH SECURITY COUNCIL.

8 (a) In this section:

9 (1) "Council" means the Higher Education Research
10 Security Council established under this section.

11 (2) "Postsecondary educational institution" means an
12 institution of higher education or a private or independent
13 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by
14 Section 61.003.

15 (3) "Tier one research institution" means a
16 postsecondary educational institution in this state designated as
17 R1: very high spending and doctorate production in the 2025
18 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education
19 published by the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary
20 Research.

21 (b) The Higher Education Research Security Council is
22 established to promote secure academic research at tier one
23 research institutions while mitigating the risk of foreign
24 espionage and interference.

1 (c) The council is composed of:

2 (1) each research security officer designated under

3 Section 51.956; and

4 (2) a research security officer designated by each

5 private or independent institution of higher education, as defined

6 by Section 61.003, that elects to participate in the council.

7 (d) A council member serves at the will of the person who

8 designated the member.

9 (e) A vacancy on the council shall be filled in the same

10 manner as the original designation.

11 (f) The council member designated under Section 51.956 for

12 The Texas A&M University System shall serve as the initial

13 presiding officer of the council.

14 (g) The council shall:

15 (1) identify best practices for a tier one research

16 institution to conduct research securely while mitigating the

17 threat of foreign espionage and interference;

18 (2) develop a research security policy that a tier one

19 research institution shall adopt to improve research security;

20 (3) establish an accreditation process under which the

21 council shall award a tier one research institution an

22 accreditation for security excellence;

23 (4) promote attendance at the annual academic security

24 and counter exploitation program seminar offered by The Texas A&M

25 University System; and

26 (5) develop and offer an annual training program for

27 tier one research institution security officers that includes:

1 (A) background and academic history checks of
2 researchers; and

6 (h) The council shall meet at least once each quarter.

7 (i) A meeting conducted under Subsection (h) must be in
8 person or by video conference call, as determined by the presiding
9 officer.

10 (j) The council shall prepare and submit to the governor,
11 the attorney general's office, and the presiding officer of each
12 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
13 education an annual report on the status of research security at
14 tier one research institutions and any associated recommendations.

15 (k) A report submitted under Subsection (j) is confidential
16 and is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government
17 Code.

18 (1) The council may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
19 donations for purposes of this section but may not solicit or accept
20 a gift, grant, or donation from an entity or country:

C.S.H.B. No. 4762

1 (3) owned by the government of a country designated as
2 a foreign adversary by the United States secretary of commerce
3 under 15 C.F.R. Section 791.4; or
4 (4) controlled by a governing or regulatory body
5 located in a country described by Subdivision (3).

6 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than October 1, 2025, the
7 appropriate entities shall designate the members of the Higher
8 Education Research Security Council established under Section
9 51.957, Education Code, as added by this Act.

10 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Higher Education
11 Research Security Council established under Section 51.957,
12 Education Code, as added by this Act, shall hold its initial
13 meeting.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.