

CHAPTER 836

S.B. No. 1169

An Act relating to the creation, purpose, establishment, administration, powers, and duties of the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. POLICY. It is the determination, policy, and intent of the legislature that the purpose of the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission is to develop a comprehensive plan for the presentation of a proposal for the Superconducting Super Collider high-energy research facility that is sponsored, authorized, and funded by the United States government. It is the intent of the legislature that the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission act on behalf of the state to formulate and present the proposal for consideration by the United States government.

SECTION 2. TEXAS NATIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORY COMMISSION. The Texas National Research Laboratory Commission is created as an agency of the state.

SECTION 3. MEMBERS OF COMMISSION; APPOINTMENT. (a) The commission is composed of nine members, who are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. All members shall be residents of this state at the time of their appointment.

(b) Included on the commission shall be two scientists who are members of a nationally recognized scientific academy, board, or association; not more than three board members shall be members of the faculty or administration of an institution of higher education in this state. To the maximum extent possible, members of the commission should be representative of all geographic areas of the state.

SECTION 4. TERMS; OFFICERS; COMPENSATION. (a) Members shall serve for a period of six years. The governor shall designate three members whose terms shall expire on February 1, 1987; three members whose terms shall expire on February 1, 1989; three members whose terms shall expire on February 1, 1991. Upon the death, resignation, or other inability of a commission member to serve, the governor shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of that unexpired term.

(b) The governor shall appoint a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary all of whom shall serve in such positions at the pleasure of the governor.

(c) Members shall serve without compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for all actual and necessary expenses incurred for attendance at commission meetings or while performing other official duties of the commission.

SECTION 5. DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION. (a) The commission shall serve as the coordinating unit and shall be an authority within the state for the

formulation of the siting proposal on behalf of the state for the Superconducting Super Collider research facility which is sponsored, authorized, and funded by the United States government. The commission shall take affirmative steps to coordinate fully all aspects of the development of the plan or proposal with other state, federal, and local agencies and institutions of higher education charged with the development of and interest in locating the scientific research facility in this state. Other state agencies and local governmental entities in this state shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible to effectuate the duties of the commission.

(b) The commission shall have the right to enter any interagency contract with any other agency of the state or with any private agency, college, university, corporation, partnership, or association for any appropriate purpose in connection with the performance of its duties. Such contracts may include but are not limited to contracts, studies, investigations, and proposals necessary to conduct its duties.

(c) The commission has the power of eminent domain to acquire for the use of the commission, in fee simple, title to real property that may be necessary and proper for carrying out its purposes in the manner prescribed in Section 21, Property Code.

(d) The commission may apply for, request, solicit, contract for, and receive and accept money and other assistance from any source, whether public or private, that is necessary to conduct its duties.

SECTION 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. (a) The executive director of the commission shall be appointed by the commission.

(b) The executive director is entitled to be reimbursed for expenses and travel in accordance with the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. The commission is subject to the Texas Sunset Act (Article 5429k, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes). Unless continued in existence as provided by that Act, the commission is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 1991.

SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on April 24, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0; passed the House on May 23, 1985, by a non-record vote.

Approved: June 15, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985