

CHAPTER 120

S.B. No. 1296

An Act relating to the creation of a Geo-Technology Research Institute.

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

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

(1) there is a need for increased research activity attracting the top minds in the country to conduct research in the areas of geophysics, geo-technology, and related fields critical to the strengthening of Texas's existing oil and gas industry and the further development of increased oil and gas production, thereby benefiting the State of Texas through additional economic activity and tax revenue;

(2) the economic well-being of the Texas oil and gas industry is critical to the State of Texas, the financing of state government, and adequate energy for our citizens;

(3) at a time when oil and gas exploration and production are declining, it is extremely important that advances in exploration and production technology continue to be made in order to help assure the future stability of the oil and gas industry and the State of Texas; and

(4) the creation of an entity with the specific responsibility to undertake geophysical, geo-technical, and related research on a level never before attempted is essential for Texas to maintain its position as a world leader in the energy industry and for the future development of the oil and gas industry.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Institute" means the Geo-Technology Research Institute.

(2) "Center" means the Houston Area Research Center.

SECTION 3. CREATION OF THE INSTITUTE; LOCATION. A Geo-Technology Research Institute is hereby created for the purpose of conducting research in the area of geophysics, geo-technology, and related fields. The institute shall be located at the Houston Area Research Center, a research consortium made up of the following member institutions: The University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Rice University, and the University of Houston.

SECTION 4. ADMINISTRATION. The administration of the institute created herein shall be under the direction of the board of directors of the center.

SECTION 5. DUTIES; ROLE; AND SCOPE OF THE INSTITUTE. The institute shall conduct basic and applied research in geophysics, geo-technology, and related fields leading to discovery of new reserves and the development of technology to increase the production potential of oil and natural gas. The results of this research shall be made available to the General Land Office, the Railroad Commission of Texas, private groups, and public bodies and officials.

SECTION 6. AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE FUNDS. (a) The institute is authorized to receive funds from the federal government and from the state government. The institute is also authorized to receive pledges, gifts, and endowments from private sources. Management and approval of the disbursement of all funding, pledges, gifts, and endowments shall be under the direction of the board of directors of the center.

(b) Use of state funds shall be limited to expenditures for basic and applied research, excluding any construction, operational, or facilities maintenance cost.

SECTION 7. 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 16, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0; passed the House on May 7, 1985, by a non-record vote.

Approved: May 17, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985