

## CHAPTER 31

## S.B. No. 39

## AN ACT

relating to the creation, purpose, powers and duties, and funding of a hazardous waste research center at Lamar University at Beaumont.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 108, Education Code, as amended, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

*SUBCHAPTER D. HAZARDOUS WASTE RESEARCH CENTER*

*Sec. 108.051. ESTABLISHMENT. The Hazardous Waste Research Center is established at Lamar University at Beaumont. The center is under the statutory authority of the board of regents of the Lamar University System.*

*Sec. 108.052. PURPOSE. The center shall carry out a program of research, evaluation, testing, development, and demonstration of alternative or innovative technologies which may be utilized in minimization, destruction, or handling of hazardous wastes to achieve better protection of human health and the environment.*

*Sec. 108.053. PRIMARY FUNCTIONS. The center shall provide coordination of the activities of a consortium of Texas universities initially consisting of Texas Engineering Experiment Station/a component of Texas A&M University System, University of Houston-University Park, The University of Texas at Austin, and Lamar University at Beaumont and such other entities as may hereinafter become affiliated.*

*The center shall develop and maintain a database relevant to the programs of the center.*

*Sec. 108.054. STAFFING. The center may employ such personnel as are necessary.*

*Sec. 108.055. PROGRAM. (a) The program shall be authorized to include:*

- (1) primary and secondary research;*
- (2) collection, analysis, and dissemination of information;*
- (3) the development of public policy recommendations;*
- (4) training related to the handling and management of hazardous waste;*
- (5) evaluation of technologies for the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes;*
- (6) demonstration projects and pilot studies of processing, storage, and destruction technologies; and*
- (7) other services consistent with the purposes of the program.*

*(b) In carrying out its established programs, the center is authorized to enter into agreements with the members of the Texas Consortium; other universities in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and other states; private research organizations; and industry.*

*Sec. 108.056. POLICY BOARD. A policy board is created to determine the policies for program research, evaluation, testing, development, demonstration, intellectual property rights, and peer review. The policy board consists of each member of the consortium. The governing board of each institution of higher education belonging to the consortium shall appoint an individual to serve as a member of the policy board.*

*Sec. 108.057. ADVISORY COUNCIL. The institutions of higher education that are members of the policy board shall appoint an advisory council to develop recommendations on the priorities for research and to serve as a resource group on the projects. Each institution shall appoint two members from private industry and two other members to serve for terms to be set by the policy board.*