

CHAPTER 675

S.B. No. 776

AN ACT

relating to a center for the support of a comprehensive database network to further the state's goal of economic diversification; authorizing appropriations.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 88, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 88.400 through 88.412 to read as follows:

Sec. 88.400. **TEXAS INNOVATION INFORMATION NETWORK.** *The Texas Innovation Information Network System ("TIINS") is hereby established.*

Sec. 88.401. **DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) "Center" means the lead regional innovation center of TIINS.
- (2) "Board" means the board of directors of TIINS.
- (3) "Committee" means the advisory committee to TIINS.
- (4) "Regional centers" means any innovation center established by the board other than the lead regional innovation center.
- (5) "Headquarters" means the administrative headquarters of TIINS.

Sec. 88.402. **ORGANIZATION.** (a) *TIINS shall be governed by a board of directors as outlined in the bylaws of the Texas Innovation Information Network System, a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, organized in the State of Texas as a public/private partnership.*

Sec. 88.403. **POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** *The powers of the board shall include but not be limited to the following:*

- (1) *to determine the scope of TIINS activities and to set policy guidelines;*
- (2) *to establish new regional innovation centers and to relocate existing centers as appropriate; and*
- (3) *to allocate resources and funds appropriated by the state for the purposes of this Act among existing regional innovation centers.*

Sec. 88.404. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** (a) *The TIINS Advisory Committee is established to advise the board on the operations and activities of TIINS.*

(b) *The initial committee is composed of individuals who served as advisory committee members immediately prior to the effective date of this Act.*

(c) *In addition, the committee includes the chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee or his designee and a designee of the lieutenant governor.*

(d) *The committee members serve terms of two years except that three members of the initial committee serve only one year. The terms of office for the initial committee commence on the effective date of this Act. All committee members are eligible for reappointment to consecutive terms.*

(e) *When the term of office of a committee member expires or a vacancy occurs on the committee, the members of the committee shall elect a successor to the position. Election to the committee requires a majority vote of all of the members of the committee. Each member of the committee serves until his successor has been elected.*

Sec. 88.405. **OBJECTIVES AND DUTIES OF THE TIINS.** *The objectives and duties of TIINS are as follows:*

- (1) *to establish and operate a database and information service which provides in a timely and efficient manner:*
 - (A) *access to current scientific information;*
 - (B) *access to scientific and engineering capabilities;*
 - (C) *access to advanced technology company capabilities and needs;*

- (D) access to the services of professional groups; and
- (E) access to continuing education and professional training programs;
- (2) to increase the number of innovations occurring in Texas;
- (3) to improve university and industry interactions;
- (4) to reduce the average time it takes for innovations to be commercialized; and
- (5) to improve the state's research competitiveness.

Sec. 88.406. LEAD REGIONAL INNOVATION CENTER. The lead regional innovation center of TIINS shall be located at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

Sec. 88.407. ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS. The administrative headquarters of TIINS shall be located at the TIINS office of Dallas.

Sec. 88.408. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS. The center shall manage the disbursement of all state-appropriated funds and property available to TIINS to the regional centers and to the headquarters.

Sec. 88.409. INITIAL REGIONAL INNOVATION CENTERS. The initial regional innovation centers shall be located at:

- (1) Texas Tech University at Lubbock;
- (2) The North Texas Commission;
- (3) Gulf Coast Small Business Development Center in Houston;
- (4) Texas Engineering Experiment Station in College Station;
- (5) Texas Research and Technology Foundation/The University of Texas at San Antonio;
- (6) The University of Texas at Austin;
- (7) The University of Texas at Tyler;
- (8) Corpus Christi State University at Corpus Christi; and
- (9) The University of Texas at El Paso.

Sec. 88.410. REPORTS. (a) The regional centers and headquarters shall submit annual reports to the center. The reports shall contain the following information:

- (1) the number of records on the database;
- (2) the percentage annual growth in the database;
- (3) the number of inquiries to the database;
- (4) the changes and improvements in system design and services;
- (5) the amount of public and private nonstate financial and in-kind support received by the regional centers; and
- (6) examples, as available, of successful public-private partnerships resulting from use of TIINS' services.

(b) The center shall compile the information received from the regional centers and submit a report to the Texas Engineering Experiment Station which shall be included in the experiment station's annual report to the state. The center shall include in its report those items enumerated in Subdivisions (1) through (5) of Subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 88.411. FEES. The board may charge fees for the services provided by TIINS through the center, any regional center, or the headquarters to any user of the TIINS system.

Sec. 88.412. FUNDING. The legislature is authorized to appropriate not more than \$250,000 per year for two years to the Texas Engineering Experiment Station for the development of TIINS. After this development period, the Texas Innovation Information Network System shall be supported by fees for services provided to both public and private users.

SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 1991.

SECTION 3. 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 May 1, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 27, 1987, by a viva-voce vote.

Passed the House, with amendments, on May 15, 1987, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 18, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.