

- SUBJECT:** Creating new research fund programs at higher education institutions
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Zerwas, Howard, Alonzo, Crownover, Morrison, Raney, C. Turner
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Clardy, Martinez
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Nelson Salinas, Texas Association of Business)
- Against — None
- On — Robert Duncan, Texas Tech University System; Renu Khator, University of Houston System (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
- BACKGROUND:** The House budget proposal contains appropriations for three new university research funds over the next biennium:
- the Texas Research University Fund;
 - the Comprehensive Research Fund; and
 - the Core Research Support Fund.
- The 84th Legislature would be required to pass legislation to reflect these new funds and provide for their administration.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1000 would amend the Education Code to reflect the creation of these three new university research funds, removing, where appropriate, the names of the funds the new programs would be replacing and providing conforming language for the administration of the funds.

Texas Research University Fund. The bill would create the Texas

Research University Fund, formerly the Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund, to support faculty in order to ensure excellence in instruction and research. The fund would no longer be intended to serve institutions designated as emerging research universities, focusing instead only on research universities that had for any three consecutive years after 2010 made total annual research expenditures in an average annual amount of at least \$450 million.

Comprehensive Research Fund. The bill also would create the Comprehensive Research Fund, formerly the Research Development Fund, which would be intended to promote increased research capacity at general academic teaching institutions other than the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, or institutions that had been designated emerging research universities by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Comprehensive Research Fund would consist of money appropriated by the Legislature to eligible institutions.

Core Research Support Fund. The bill also would create the Core Research Support Fund, which would provide funding for the sole purpose of increasing research capacity at institutions designated by the coordinating board as emerging research universities. The funding an institution would receive from the Core Research Support Fund would be based on both the restricted and total research funds expended by the institution. Institutions that received Core Research Support money would be required to submit a report to the coordinating board and Legislative Budget Board each fiscal year describing how the funds had been spent.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.