



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1258

January Session, 2005

* _____SB01258APP___042105_____*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH APPLICATIONS WITH INDUSTRY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is established a
2 grant program to enable institutions of higher education and industry
3 to advance talent and research capabilities in today's high-technology
4 environment. The program shall be administered by the Office of
5 Workforce Competitiveness. The office shall award grants for
6 purposes of the program to institutions of higher education and
7 business entities for the purchase, lease, or installation of equipment
8 and facilities and for personnel to operate and maintain such
9 equipment and facilities. Such equipment and facilities may include
10 specialized core facilities or the acquisition of a major piece of
11 equipment that:

12 (1) Is key to the research and development agenda of the
13 organization, enabling both high priority research and research
14 collaboration;

15 (2) Can be shared with other higher educational institutions;

16 (3) Can promote collaboration with industry and advance applied
17 research projects, such as in characterizing materials, conducting
18 preclinical research on new drugs or product testing; or

19 (4) Represents a major, nonincremental improvement in capacities
20 within this state.

21 (b) There is established a structured industry-university matching
22 research grant program administered by the Office of Workforce
23 Competitiveness. Under the program, the office shall provide
24 matching grants to institutions of higher education and businesses in
25 accordance with this subsection and subsection (a) of this section. The
26 program shall include sustained annual funding, active outreach to
27 companies and two rounds of funding annually. The program shall:

28 (1) Provide one-to-one matching grants not to exceed one hundred
29 thousand dollars, with in-kind match allowed for small and mid-sized
30 companies; and

31 (2) Involve a competitive process for funding using outside
32 reviewers and require the demonstration of commercial relevance and
33 a clear path to the marketplace for any innovations developed in the
34 course of the research project.

35 (c) Grants under subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be
36 awarded based on the following order of priority:

37 (1) Grants that focus on strategies that support research and
38 development in institutions of higher education in the area of stem cell
39 research;

40 (2) Grants that focus on strategies that support additional research
41 and development in institutions of higher education in the area of
42 nanotechnology, using the findings of the study conducted in
43 accordance with section 2 of this act.

44 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Workforce
45 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations and in
46 consultation with the nanotechnology advisory council established
47 under subsection (b) of this section, prepare recommendations to
48 advance this state's position in nanotechnology development,

