

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2531
Version:	FULLPCS1
Author:	Rep. Schwartz
Date:	February 24, 2010
Impact:	No Increase in Appropriations Expected Cost Efficiencies

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: "Click and type"

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Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Mark Tygret

PCS 1 for HB 2531 establishes a comprehensive technology test and evaluation program to leverage advances in federal government requirements for standardized and effective test and evaluation strategies. A critical aspect of the program is the identification of high-priority and high-impact programs that advance the state's science and technology funding base, increase intellectual property value and have rapid commercialization potential.

The program is to be organized in three (3) prioritized focus areas with specific test and evaluation requirements:

- State/OCAST-sponsored research and development projects;
- Oklahoma entities with products near commercialization; and
- Oklahoma entities with early-phase applied research programs within the EDGE core focus areas – aerospace, agriculture, biotechnology, energy, information technology/telecommunications, nanotechnology, sensors and weather science.

Research and development partners are nonprofit entities organized under Oklahoma law having an affiliation with a comprehensive public Oklahoma university and possessing specific characteristics.

Proposed annual expenditures will be variable and indexed to fifteen percent (15%) of the total state-sponsored research and development and other technology investment programs that are targeted toward end-state commercialization. Excluded from expenditure calculations are state-sponsored research and development programs performed in the advancement of general scientific and medical knowledge performed at or with Oklahoma research centers, schools, colleges and universities.

Fiscal Analysis

By aligning the program effort with federal programs the state will be able to realize significant operational and cost efficiencies, with an aim to offset the cost of proposed test and evaluation programs within two (2) years of any project (as has been illustrated with federal activities). The provisions of the measure are not intended to increase currently appropriated funds, but to ensure that at least fifteen percent (15%) of current and future funds are programmed toward test and evaluation.

OCAST (Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology) and research and development partners are to be the lead agencies for the program. OCAST is to establish a test and evaluation advisory board and establish a five year strategic plan for the program. OCAST is also directed, with research and development partners, to develop a state-level standards program and operate a test bed for the standardization of protocols, processes and procedures.

After determining total funds available for the program, OCAST officials will be able to identify equipment, contract, and manpower needs to fulfill the program's mission, as well as which projects are optimal for testing in order to help develop standardized procedures.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

Establishment of a comprehensive program for testing and evaluation provides the potential for significant advancement in the commercialization of products and processes resulting from efficient research and development efforts and may result in technology-based economic development for the state.

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director