

COMMERCIALIZATION OF RESEARCH

262B.1 Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "*Commercialization of Research for Iowa Act*".

88 Acts, ch 1268, §9; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, §95, 133

[2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, §95, 133 amendment to section text rescinded pursuant to *Rants v. Vilsack*, 684 N.W.2d 193]

2005 Acts, ch 150, §30

262B.2 Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the general assembly that the three universities under the control of the state board of regents have as part of their missions the use of their universities' expertise to expand and stimulate economic growth across the state. This activity may be accomplished through a wide variety of partnerships, public and private joint ventures, and cooperative endeavors, primarily, but not exclusively, in the area of high technology, and may result in investments by the private sector for commercialization of the technology and job creation. It is imperative that whenever possible, the investments and job creation be in Iowa but need not be in the proximity of the universities. The purpose of the investments and job creation shall be to expand and stimulate Iowa's economy, increase the wealth of Iowans, and increase the population of Iowa, which may be accomplished through research conducted within the state that will competitively position Iowa on an economic basis with other states and create high-wage, high-growth employers and jobs. Accredited private universities located in the state are encouraged to incorporate the intent of this section into the mission of their universities.

88 Acts, ch 1268, §10; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, §96, 133

[2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, § 96, 133 amendment to this section rescinded pursuant to *Rants v. Vilsack*, 684 N.W.2d 193]

2005 Acts, ch 150, §31

262B.3 Duties and responsibilities.

1. The state board of regents, as part of its mission and strategic plan, shall establish mechanisms for the purpose of carrying out the intent of this chapter. In addition to other board initiatives, the board shall work with the department of economic development, other state agencies, and the private sector to facilitate the commercialization of research.
2. The state board of regents, in cooperation with the department of economic development, shall implement this chapter through any of the following activities:
 - a. Developing strategies to market and disseminate information on university research for commercialization in Iowa.
 - b. Evaluating university research for commercialization potential, where relevant.
 - c. Developing a plan to improve private sector access to the university licenses and patent information and the transfer of technology from the university to the private sector.

- d. Identifying research and technical assistance needs of existing Iowa businesses and start-up companies and recommending ways in which the universities can meet these needs.
- e. Linking research and instruction activities to economic development.
- f. Reviewing and monitoring activities related to technology transfer.
- g. Coordinating activities to facilitate a focus on research in the state's targeted industry clusters.
- h. Surveying similar activities in other states and at other universities.
- i. Establishing a single point of contact to facilitate commercialization of research.
- j. Sustaining faculty and staff resources needed to implement commercialization.
- k. Implementing programs to provide public recognition of university faculty and staff who demonstrate success in technology transfer and commercialization.
- l. Implementing rural entrepreneurial and regional development assistance programs.
- m. Providing market research ranging from early stage feasibility to extensive market research.
- n. Creating real or virtual research parks that may or may not be located near universities, but with the goal of providing economic stimulus to the entire state.
- o. Capacity building in key biosciences platform areas.
- p. Encouraging biosciences entrepreneurship by faculty.
- q. Providing matching grants for joint biosciences projects involving public and private entities.
- r. Encouraging biosciences entrepreneurship by faculty using faculty research and entrepreneurship grants.
- s. Pursuing bioeconomy initiatives in key platform areas as recommended by a consultant report on bioeconomy issues contracted for by the department of economic development.

3. Each January 15, the state board of regents shall submit a written report to the general assembly detailing the patents and licenses held by each institution of higher learning under the control of the state board of regents and by nonprofit foundations acting solely for the support of institutions governed by the state board of regents.

88 Acts, ch 1268, §11; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, §97, 133

[2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, §97, 133 amendments to this section rescinded pursuant to *Rants v. Vilsack*, 684 N.W.2d 193]

2005 Acts, ch 150, §32

Footnotes

Technology commercialization specialist, committee, and officer; §15.11515.117

262B.4 and 262B.5 Repealed by 2005 Acts, ch 150, § 33.

262B.6 through 262B.10 Reserved.

262B.11 Reserved.

2003 amendments made in 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, and establishing §262B.11 stricken pursuant to *Rants v. Vilsack*, 684 N.W.2d 193

262B.12 Appropriation. Repealed by 2005 Acts, ch 150, § 33.

262B.13 through 262B.20 Reserved.

262B.21 Research and development platforms.

1. For purposes of this section, and sections 262B.22 and 262B.23, "*core platform areas*" means the areas of advanced manufacturing, biosciences, information solutions, and financial services.

2. The state board of regents shall do all of the following:

a. Recruit employees, build capacity, and invest moneys to ensure rapid scientific progress in the core platform areas.

b. Create endowed chair positions and employ persons with entrepreneurial expertise.

c. Invest in technology development infrastructure to strengthen and accelerate the scientific and commercialization work in the core platform areas.

d. Provide financial assistance in the form of grants for purposes of accelerating the transformation of new and ongoing research and development initiatives in the core platform areas into commercial opportunities.

e. Actively participate in advisory groups dedicated to the areas of bioscience advanced manufacturing, and information solutions.

2006 Acts, ch 1179, §48

262B.22 Technology and commercialization resource organization.

1. The general assembly finds and declares that the public good requires that Iowa successfully participate and compete in the emerging world economy. A technology and commercialization resource organization is established to formulate and implement plans and programs for the core platform areas and to facilitate their commercial application within the state.

2. The technology and commercialization resource organization shall receive recommendations for research projects which have commercialization potential from institutions of higher learning under the control of the state board of regents. In cooperation with commercialization experts in the private sector, the organization shall analyze research project submissions and make recommendations regarding which projects should receive funding and how much funding such projects should receive. The recommendations of the organization shall be forwarded to the state board of regents. The state board of regents shall review the recommendations and may approve, deny, or modify the recommendations, but the state board of regents shall not change the primary focus of the proposal. The state board of regents may award financial assistance to approved research projects.

3. A technology and commercialization resource organization shall be incorporated under chapter 504. The organization shall not be regarded as a state agency, except for purposes of chapter 17A. A member of the board of directors is not considered a state employee, except for purposes of chapter 669. A natural person employed by the organization is a state employee for purposes of the Iowa public employees' retirement system, state health and dental plans, and other state employee benefit plans and chapter 669. Chapters 8, 8A, and 20, and other provisions of law that relate to requirements or restrictions dealing with state personnel or state funds, do not apply to the organization or any employees of the board of directors or the organization except to the extent provided in this chapter.

4. The board of directors of the organization shall consist of eight voting members as follows:

a. The president of the state board of regents.

b. The three members of the economic development subcommittee of the state board of regents.

c. The chief technology officer of the state.

d. One member selected by a biosciences development organization designated by the department of economic development pursuant to section 15G.111, subsection 2.

e. The chairperson of the advanced manufacturing steering group of the department of economic development.

f. The chairperson of the information solutions steering group of the department of economic development.

5. The members of the board of directors shall annually elect a president of the board from the board membership. A vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Members are eligible for actual expense reimbursement while fulfilling duties of the board.

2006 Acts, ch 1179, §49

262B.23 Endowed chairs and salaries.

The state board of regents may use for salaries and may create endowed chair positions at each of the regents universities using, in part, moneys appropriated to the state board of regents for purposes of implementing recommendations provided in separate consultant reports on bioscience, advanced manufacturing, and information technology submitted to the department of economic development in the calendar years 2004 and 2005. Such moneys may only be used to partially fund an endowed chair position if significant private contributions and contributions from governmental entities other than the state and political subdivisions of the state are used to fund the position. Not more than fifty percent of the cost of funding an endowed chair position shall be paid with such moneys. The endowed chair positions shall be used to attract scholars recruited nationally and internationally who can bring with them related start-up business ventures or a concept for near-term commercialization.

2006 Acts, ch 1179, §50