



## 2013 SENATE BILL 537

January 30, 2014 – Introduced by Senators VINEHOUT, SCHULTZ, RISSER, SHILLING, HANSEN, LEHMAN and T. CULLEN, cosponsored by Representatives BARCA, BERCEAU, WRIGHT, HEBL, KOLSTE and KAHL. Referred to Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges.

- 1     **AN ACT** *to create* 15.917 (2) and 36.25 (55) of the statutes; **relating to:**  
2             establishing a nanotechnology information hub and a nanotechnology council.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents to maintain a nanotechnology information hub (hub) in the UW–Extension, for at least five years, to promote the development of nanotechnology businesses in this state, and gather and disseminate information about environmental health and workplace safety related to nanotechnology. The bill sets forth specific duties for the hub, including requiring the hub to report to the legislature on emerging nanotechnology health and safety information. The bill also requires the hub, at the direction of the nanotechnology council described below, to identify needed legislation relating to nanotechnology safety and development.

The bill creates a nanotechnology council to set policies and priorities for the hub and to make grants for research and development related to nanotechnology, subject to the availability of funding. The bill does not appropriate any funds for grants but rather directs the hub to seek and compete for federal, state, or other funding to support its activities and to be used by the nanotechnology council to make grants. The nanotechnology council consists of the following members (or their designees): the director of the state laboratory of hygiene; the secretary of natural resources; the secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection; the secretary of health services; the secretary of workforce development; the chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation; the administrator of the Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Military Affairs; the

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president of the UW System; the president of the technical college system board; and the president of the board of the Wisconsin Technology Council. The council also has five members each of whom represents one of the following interests: environmental interests; consumer protection; public health; economic development; and technology transfer. These five members are nominated by the governor, selected from a list of names submitted by organizations representing the relevant interest. These members are confirmed by the senate and serve staggered three-year terms.

The bill requires the nanotechnology council to meet at least twice each year and must develop and implement plans for the nanotechnology information hub to sustain its own funding.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

1           **SECTION 1.** 15.917 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

2           15.917 (2) NANOTECHNOLOGY COUNCIL. There is created in the University of  
3 Wisconsin System a nanotechnology council consisting of the following members:

4           (a) The director of the state laboratory of hygiene or his or her designee.

5           (b) The secretary of natural resources or his or her designee.

6           (c) The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection or his or her  
7 designee.

8           (d) The secretary of health services or his or her designee.

9           (e) The secretary of workforce development or his or her designee.

10          (f) The chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development  
11 Corporation or his or her designee.

12          (g) The administrator of the division of emergency management in the  
13 department of military affairs or his or her designee.

14          (h) The president of the University of Wisconsin System or his or her designee.

15          (i) The president of the technical college system board or his or her designee.

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1 (j) The president of the board of the Wisconsin Technology Council or his or her  
2 designee.

3 (k) Five members nominated by the governor, and with the advice and consent  
4 of the senate appointed to serve 3-year terms, as follows:

5 1. A member representing environmental interests, selected from a list of  
6 names submitted by environmental organizations.

7 2. A member representing consumer interests, selected from a list of names  
8 submitted by consumer protection organizations.

9 3. A member representing the interests of public health, selected from a list of  
10 names submitted by public health organizations.

11 4. A member with knowledge and expertise in economic development, selected  
12 from a list of names submitted by economic development organizations.

13 5. A member representing an organization that specializes in technology  
14 transfer, selected from a list of names submitted by organizations that specialize in  
15 technology transfer.

16 **SECTION 2.** 36.25 (55) of the statutes is created to read:

17 **36.25 (55) NANOTECHNOLOGY INFORMATION HUB AND NANOTECHNOLOGY COUNCIL.**

18 (a) The board shall maintain in the extension a nanotechnology information hub to  
19 promote the development of nanotechnology businesses and gather and disseminate  
20 information about environmental health and workplace safety related to  
21 nanotechnology. The board shall maintain the nanotechnology information hub for  
22 at least 5 years.

23 (b) The nanotechnology information hub shall do all of the following to foster  
24 communication and cooperation between the public and private sectors on matters  
25 related to nanotechnology:

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1           1. Facilitate the sharing of specialized equipment and skills related to  
2 nanotechnology.

3           2. Arrange for periodic events to bring together people interested in  
4 nanotechnology.

5           3. Establish an interactive Internet platform for receiving and disseminating  
6 information on nanotechnology.

7           4. Monitor, compile, and disseminate emerging scientific research on nanoscale  
8 material uses, benefits, and risks.

9           (c) The nanotechnology information hub shall do all of the following to assist  
10 in the development of the nanotechnology industry in this state:

11           1. Help businesses to identify and access resources to help them to comply with  
12 rules and regulations related to nanotechnology, implement best practices for  
13 handling nanoscale materials to protect worker safety, and otherwise minimize the  
14 risks associated with the use of nanoscale materials in products.

15           2. Inform businesses that are involved in nanotechnology or that use nanoscale  
16 materials in products about business development assistance programs.

17           3. Inform the public and businesses that are involved in nanotechnology about  
18 postsecondary education programs that prepare workers for careers related to  
19 nanotechnology.

20           4. Monitor and provide information on new and proposed state rules and  
21 federal regulations related to nanotechnology.

22           (d) The nanotechnology information hub shall do all of the following to promote  
23 environmental health, research, and workplace safety related to nanotechnology:

24           1. Inform interested parties about opportunities for federal, state, or other  
25 funding for nanotechnology research or other programs related to nanotechnology.

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1           2. Inform the public about the benefits and risks of specific types of nanoscale  
2 materials and products containing nanoscale materials.

3           3. Inform emergency response personnel about the safe handling of nanoscale  
4 materials in emergency situations.

5           4. Collect information voluntarily provided by public and private sector entities  
6 in this state about the types and amounts of nanoscale materials being handled or  
7 manufactured and the locations of those activities.

8           5. Undertake other educational, public outreach, and grant activities related  
9 to nanotechnology.

10          6. Report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s.  
11 13.172 (3) on emerging nanotechnology health and safety information and, at the  
12 direction of the nanotechnology council, identify needed legislation relating to  
13 nanotechnology safety and development.

14           (e) The nanotechnology information hub shall seek and compete for federal,  
15 state, or other funding to support its activities and to be used by the nanotechnology  
16 council under par. (g) to make grants through the extension for research and  
17 development related to nanotechnology.

18           (f) The board shall ensure that adequate staff is assigned to provide support  
19 to the nanotechnology information hub. The board shall ensure that staff with  
20 technical experience with nanoscale materials and knowledge about the  
21 occupational and environmental human health effects of nanoscale materials are  
22 provided.

23           (g) The nanotechnology council shall meet at least twice every year and shall  
24 set policies and priorities for the nanotechnology information hub and make grants

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1 through the extension for research and development related to nanotechnology,  
2 subject to the availability of funding.

3 (h) The nanotechnology council shall develop and implement plans for the  
4 nanotechnology information hub to sustain its own funding.

5 **SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.**

6 (1) Notwithstanding the length of terms specified in section 15.917 (2) (k)  
7 (intro.) of the statutes, as created by this act, the governor shall appoint one of the  
8 initial members of the nanotechnology council under section 15.917 (2) (k) 1. to 5. of  
9 the statutes, as created by this act, for a term ending on July 1, 2016, 2 of the initial  
10 members of the nanotechnology council under section 15.917 (2) (k) 1. to 5. of the  
11 statutes, as created by this act, for terms ending on July 1, 2017, and 2 of the initial  
12 members of the nanotechnology council under section 15.917 (2) (k) 1. to 5. of the  
13 statutes, as created by this act, for terms ending on July 1, 2018.

14 (2) All initial members of the nanotechnology council shall be appointed or  
15 designated under section 15.917 (2) of the statutes, as created by this act, no later  
16 than 90 days after the effective date of this subsection.

17 (END)