

HOUSE BILL 1855

By Ragan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, relative to higher education research security.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Each public institution of higher education shall establish a policy framework to promote the security of academic research conducted at the institution to mitigate against the risk of foreign influence.

(b) Each policy framework must:

(1) Comply with all applicable ethical, legal, regulatory, contractual, and system standards and requirements for securing and protecting the institution's research portfolios;

(2) Promote a culture of compliance with federal requirements within the institution to ensure that the institution maintains eligibility for federal funding; and

(3) Designate an individual to serve as the research security officer for the institution, who is responsible for:

(A) Maintaining classified information;

(B) Maintaining controlled unclassified information;

(C) Reporting on any foreign influence at the institution; and

(D) Addressing other issues at the institution relative to the goals

established in the institution's policy framework.

(c) The University of Tennessee board of trustees and the board of regents may designate one (1) person to serve as the research security officer in a system-wide capacity for purposes of subdivision (b)(3).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.