



State of Wisconsin  
2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



LRB-3881/1  
MDK:med:jm

## 2011 SENATE BILL 533

February 29, 2012 – Introduced by JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. Referred to Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology.

- 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 is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Nanotechnology. It responds to the committee's instruction to create an entity to promote the development of nanotechnology in this state by serving as a central information source on the benefits, risks, and regulations related to nanotechnology, promoting collaboration between the public and private sectors, providing technical assistance to businesses and researchers, establishing a state educational program, and otherwise promoting the safe development of nanotechnology.

This bill directs the University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents to maintain a nanotechnology information hub in the UW-Extension ("the extension"), for at least 5 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 nanotechnology information hub. The hub is directed to report to the legislature on emerging nanotechnology health and safety information, and at the direction of the nanotechnology

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council described below, identify needed legislation relating to nanotechnology safety and development.

The bill creates a nanotechnology council to set policies and priorities for the nanotechnology information 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 nanotechnology 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 president of the UW System.
- The president of the technical college system board.
- The president of the board of the Wisconsin Technology Council.

The council also has 5 members each of whom represents one of the following specific interests relevant to nanotechnology. These 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 3-year terms:

- Environmental interests.
- Consumer protection.
- Public health.
- Economic development.
- Technology transfer.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 5. A member representing an organization that specializes in technology  
24 transfer, selected from a list of names submitted by organizations that specialize in  
25 technology transfer.

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

2           **36.25 (55)** NANOTECHNOLOGY INFORMATION HUB AND NANOTECHNOLOGY COUNCIL.

3           (a) The board shall maintain in the extension a nanotechnology information hub to  
4           promote the development of nanotechnology businesses and gather and disseminate  
5           information about environmental health and workplace safety related to  
6           nanotechnology. The board shall maintain the nanotechnology information hub for  
7           at least 5 years.

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

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

13          2. Arrange for periodic events to bring together people interested in  
14          nanotechnology.

15          3. Establish an interactive Internet platform for receiving and disseminating  
16          information on nanotechnology.

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

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

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

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

3           3. Inform the public and businesses that are involved in nanotechnology about  
4 post-secondary education programs that prepare workers for careers related to  
5 nanotechnology.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19           5. Undertake other educational, public outreach, and grant activities related  
20 to nanotechnology.

21           6. Report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s.  
22 13.172 (3) on emerging nanotechnology health and safety information and, at the  
23 direction of the nanotechnology council, identify needed legislation relating to  
24 nanotechnology safety and development.

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

5 (f) The board shall ensure that adequate staff is assigned to provide support  
6 to the nanotechnology information hub. The board shall ensure that staff with  
7 technical experience with nanoscale materials and knowledge about the  
8 occupational and environmental human health effects of nanoscale materials are  
9 provided.

10 (g) The nanotechnology council shall meet at least twice every year and shall  
11 set policies and priorities for the nanotechnology information hub and make grants  
12 through the extension for research and development related to nanotechnology,  
13 subject to the availability of funding.

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

16 **SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.**

17 (1) Notwithstanding the length of terms specified in section 15.91 (2) (k) (intro.)  
18 of the statutes, as created by this act, the governor shall appoint one of the initial  
19 members of the nanotechnology council under section 15.917 (2) (k) 1. to 5. of the  
20 statutes, as created by this act, for a term ending on July 1, 2014, two of the initial  
21 members of the nanotechnology council under section 15.917 (2) (k) 1. to 5. of the  
22 statutes, as created by this act, for terms ending on July 1, 2015, and two of the initial  
23 members of the nanotechnology council under section 15.917 (2) (k) 1. to 5. of the  
24 statutes, as created by this act, for terms ending on July 1, 2016.

