

**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

COMMITTEE: Academic Affairs, Research, & Student Life

ITEM: Request Approval of Annual House Bill 127 (Texas Education Code, Chapter 51B) Compliance Certification and Updates to Research Security and Protection Law Policies

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED: July 18, 2026

SUMMARY:

House Bill (HB) 127, passed during the 89th Legislative Session (2025) and codified under Texas Education Code 51B, provides requirements and safeguards to protect institutions of higher education from foreign adversaries by strengthening precautions surrounding research gifts, contracts, academic partnerships, student organizations, foreign travel, and sensitive information. It establishes research-security requirements and oversight mechanisms intended to prevent foreign espionage, interference, and improper influence within Texas colleges and universities.

Texas Southern University has undertaken a comprehensive review of the legislation and applicable implementation guidance and has coordinated efforts across University Administration, the Office of General Counsel, Research, Compliance, Human Resources, Student Affairs, Information Technology, Procurement, Finance, and other responsible areas to implement the statutory requirements and establish appropriate institutional controls.

As mandated by statute, the University reviewed and updated its Ethics and Conflicts of Interest policy (MAPP 02.02.05) to incorporate the foreign-adversary gift prohibitions and reporting requirements set forth in HB 127. Additional administrative controls have been implemented or are being finalized for research-security screening, foreign gift review, federal Section 117 reporting, and maintenance of documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance and support future State Auditor review.

The attached documentation and references to MAPP updates are provided solely for Board awareness. The Administration does not request or require Board approval of any University MAPP or Board policy in connection with this Agenda item.

Following the Board's approval of the Administration's certification, Dr. John, in her capacity as RSO, will submit the Certification Acknowledgment Form, attached herewith, to the appropriate state agency in accordance with the requirements of HB 127 and in advance of the September 1, 2026, submission deadline.

APPLICABLE FEDERAL OR STATE STATUTE(S) AND/OR REGULATION(S):

House Bill 127

Texas Education Code §51.957

Texas Education Code Chapter 51B (Higher Education Research and Protection)

§51B.001

§51B.002

§51B.051

§51B.052

§51B.153

§51B.351

Texas Penal Code §31.05(c)

Section 117, Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1011f)

Texas Executive Order GA-48

FISCAL IMPACT: No Fiscal Impact

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: (Under Separate Cover)

Executive Summary

Texas Southern University Board Policy, Section IV 63.1 – Research Security Program

Texas Southern University House Bill 127 Compliance Checklist

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Texas Southern University Guidelines Policies and Procedures on Research Misconduct
FY26 CEO Certification of Compliance Acknowledgement Form

RELATED BOARD BYLAW, POLICY AND/OR MAPP: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Administration recommends approval of this item.

ASCEND 2030 UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES ALIGNMENT:

- 2.3 Strengthen university partnerships
- 2.4 Grow research and doctoral education; advance toward R1
- 3.2 Strengthen data analytics
- 4.1 Update and optimize technology platforms and data governance

Legal Certification: Based on available information to date, this agenda item and its implementation will not be in violation of any applicable federal, state, or local law or regulation.

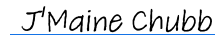


GENERAL COUNSEL

08/14/2026

DATE

Fiscal Certification: This fiscal note, shown above, details the true and actual positive or negative fiscal effect that implementation of this agenda item will have and the detailed reasons for such effect.



J'Maine Chubb (Aug 14, 2026 20:14:22 EDT)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

08/14/2026

DATE



James Crawford (Aug 14, 2026 19:42:14 CDT)

PRESIDENT

08/14/2026

DATE