

- SUBJECT:** Study of emerging technology and economic development
- COMMITTEE:** Economic Development — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Ritter, B. Cook, Anchia, Deshotel, Kolkhorst, Seaman
0 nays
1 absent — McCall
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 29 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Tom Kowalski, Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute)
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The Governor’s Council on Science and Biotechnology Development was created in 2002 and charged with recommending a course of action for Texas in technology and scientific research.

In 2004, Gov. Perry announced a long-term economic development and job creation plan that focused on six key industry clusters, including advanced technologies and manufacturing, aerospace and defense, biotechnology and life sciences, information and computer technology, petroleum refining and chemical products, and energy.
- DIGEST:** SB 593 would require the Office of the Governor to conduct a study on economic development and emerging technology. This study would summarize and outline available tools and programs that encourage economic development and emerging technology. It also would outline the responsibilities of stakeholders in the encouragement of economic growth. These stakeholders would include members of the finance community, university and industry researchers, state employees, and others.

The governor would report the results of the study and would recommend statutory changes to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, and the members of the 80th Legislature by December 1, 2006.

The provisions in this bill would expire September 1, 2007.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2005.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 593 would open the door for fostering innovation, technology, and economic development in the state. As the 21st century progresses, it has become increasingly apparent that new technologies, including the Internet, nanotechnology, and biotechnology, are driving the economy. It is essential to the economic development of this state that Texas remain competitive in these areas.

One of the first steps toward remaining competitive is to learn and compile information about the range of technology and economic development projects underway in Texas. It is also important to identify the tools Texas has that could be used for such economic development. These studies could form the basis for policy decisions about how the state best could capitalize on these new industries to enhance economic development.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.