



# HB 127 Board of Regents Briefing

## Texas research security governance, certification and HERSC

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### Briefing focus

- Board obligations
- 2026 certification
- Implementation timeline
- HERSC statewide role

May 2026

# AGENDA



**1**

**Why HB 127 matters**

**2**

**2026 certification requirements**

**3**

**Implementation timeline**

**4**

**HERSC role and structure**

**5**

**Board decisions now**

# HB 127 changes the board's role



**HB 127 turns research security into a recurring board-governance obligation.**

**1**

## **Creates HERSC**

Statewide coordination of standards and practice

**2**

## **Adds Chapter 51B**

Travel, software, gifts, partnerships, screening, student organizations, foreign travel

**3**

## **Requires annual certification**

Boards must certify compliance before spending state appropriations

**4**

## **Increases Accountability**

Audits, testimony, and impact to state appropriations



## 2026 certification: active-now requirements

The FY 2026 board checklist is centered on provisions already in effect.

● **Student organizations compliant**

● **Research security office established**

● **Foreign travel controls active**

● **THECB software list honored**

● **Certification evidence assembled**

### **Still pending standards**

**Gifts from foreign adversaries**

**Academic partnerships**

**Foreign researcher screening**

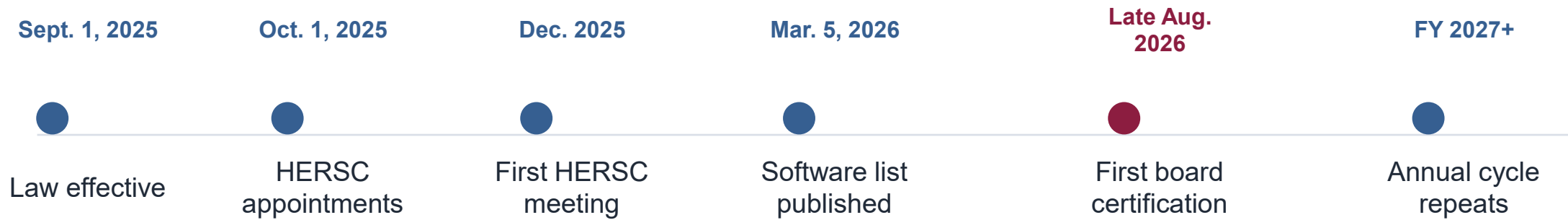
These provisions activate after HERSC and THECB finalize the governing standards and rulemaking.

FY27 appropriations will be impacted if BORs do not certify compliance with the active provisions before August 31, 2026.

# Implementation is front-loaded through first certification



Board attention is highest before FY 2027 appropriations can be spent.



Active now: student-organization controls, research security offices, foreign-travel programs, and prohibited-software compliance.  
Deferred until standards: gifts, academic partnerships, and foreign-researcher screening.

# HERSC is the statewide implementation engine



## What HERSC does

**Sets best practices**

**Develops model policies**

**Runs training and accreditation**

**Manages certification inputs**

## Structure

Up 18 members

8 voting members

One voting RSO per system

Extra nonvoting medical-school seat allowed

Private R1s may opt in

# Tiered Research Security Framework



- Tier 1** R1 Universities – VERY HIGH RISK
- Tier 2** Large Health Systems with Research – HIGH RISK
- Tier 3** R2 Universities – MODERATE RISK
- Tier 4** Emerging Research Institutions – LOW/MODERATE RISK
- Tier 5** Non-Research Institutions – LOW RISK

## HB 127 Basic Compliance Requirements

**TIER 1 & 2 COMPLIANCE**

- NSPM-33 Aligned Security Program
- Research Security Officer
- Foreign Travel Controls, Enhanced Vetting & Cybersecurity
- Sponsor & Entity Screening, Critical Training
- Continuous Monitoring by Year 3

**TIER 3 COMPLIANCE**

- Responsible Official
- Annual PI Disclosures
- Periodic Screening of High-Risk Collaborators

**TIER 4 COMPLIANCE**

- HB 127 Policy Framework
- Simplified Disclosures
- Required Basic Training

**TIER 5 COMPLIANCE**

- Compliance Statement
- Awareness-Level Training

**HB 127 Basic Compliance**  
Requirements are cumulative from Tier 1 to Tier 5.

### Year 1 - Baseline

Policy Adaptation & HB127 Implementation Roadmap

### Year 2 - Maturation

Implementation of all HB127 Basic Compliance Requirements

### Year 3 - Optimization

Full Program Implementation

Risk Aligned • Federally Compatible • Operationally Defensible



# What boards should ask institutions now

## Governance

**Is our RSO structure clear and board-ready?**

## Controls

**Are active-now controls operating across all institutions?**

## Evidence

**Can we defend certification with auditable documentation?**

## Readiness

**Are we prepared for HERSC-driven standards to activate?**

**Objective: funding-safe, audit-ready, operationally defensible compliance.**

# Research Security Liaisons



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