AB 104
Establish a Nanotechnology Hub and Council at UW System

**LEGISLATION**

*Introduced by Representative Barca and Senator Vinehout on March 20, 2015 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy*

This bill requires the University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents to maintain a nanotechnology information hub (hub) in the UW-Extension, for at least five 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 hub, including requiring the hub to report to the legislature on emerging nanotechnology health and safety information. The bill also requires the hub, at the direction of the nanotechnology council described below, to identify needed legislation relating to nanotechnology safety and development.

The bill creates a nanotechnology council to set policies and priorities for the 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 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; and the president of

**UW SYSTEM POSITION**

This legislation is based on a proposal put forth by the Legislative Study Committee’s Special Committee on Nanotechnology, which was created in 2011. Legislation was introduced based on the recommendations made by this committee in each legislative session since.

The nanotechnology industry, its presence in Wisconsin and the University System’s relationship with it has changed significantly since 2011. The Board of Regents asks that this legislation be amended to reflect those changes.

Further, the Board of Regents also asks that the authors work with staff from System Administration and individual institutions to ensure the legislation is amended in a way that would achieve the goals put forth by both the 2011 Special Committee and the bill’s authors.
the board of the Wisconsin Technology Council. The council also has five members each of whom represents one of the following interests: environmental interests; consumer protection; public health; economic development; and technology transfer. These five 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 three-year terms.

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