HOUSE . . . . . No. 3801

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to Strengthen Research and Innovation in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. To provide for a program to support scientific and technology research and development in the state that helps to enhance economic development and job growth throughout the state, and promote the well-being of those living in the state, the sum set forth in section 2, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds, which sum shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated for these purposes.

SECTION 2.

XXXX-XXXX For the Scientific and Technology Research and Development Matching Grant Fund

established in section 3 of this act ……
$100,000,000

SECTION 3. Chapter 40J of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 4F the following new section:-

Section 4G. (a) The general court finds that scientific and technology research and development conducted at higher education institutions and non-profit research institutions in the state is vital to identifying and developing new knowledge that leads to innovations that drive the state's economy, promote economic development and job growth opportunities throughout the diverse regions of the state, improve the quality of life for those living in the state and throughout the world, and help strengthen the state's global competitiveness.

(b) In order to assist in fostering additional scientific and technology research and development in the state, there is hereby established a fund to be known as the Scientific and Technology Research and Development Matching Grant Fund, hereinafter referred to as the

23 “matching grant fund”, to which shall be credited the proceeds of bonds or notes of the
24 commonwealth issued for the purpose, and any appropriations designated by the general court to
25 be credited thereto. The matching grant fund shall be administered by the corporation. The
26 corporation shall hold the matching grant fund in an account or accounts separate from other
27 funds of the corporation. The purpose of the matching grant fund is to provide matching funds
28 for capital expenditures to be made in connection with projects which are sponsored by the
29 University of Massachusetts, research universities, or non-profit research institutions in the state
30 for scientific or technology research and development and funded in part by the federal
31 government, or other public or private funds including, but not limited to, venture capital;
32 provided, that any grant awarded in accordance with this section shall leverage at least $3 for
33 each dollar granted; provided further, that prior to awarding any grant under this section the
34 corporation shall determine that the grant will advance the finding contained in paragraph (a);
35 provided further, that priority shall be given to large-scale, long-term research and development
36 activities that have the greatest potential to support scientific and technological innovation and
37 stimulate economic and employment opportunities in the state; and provided, further that at least
38 fifty percent of the grant funds under this section shall be reserved for award, subject to
39 qualification, to the University of Massachusetts. In no event shall the corporation determine that
40 a grant will advance the finding contained in paragraph (a) unless: (1) the grant supports a
41 project that represents a collaboration of two or more research universities or non-profit
42 institutions, and (2) the project facilities are located in an economically underperforming
43 community or region of the state; and provided further that at least fifty percent of the grant
44 funds under this section shall be reserved for award, subject to qualification, to project facilities
45 located in a “Gateway municipality,” as defined in Section 3A of Chapter 23A of the General
46 Laws. The University of Massachusetts may, if it deems necessary to help ensure efficient and
47 effective research and development efforts, enter into collaborative agreements with other higher
48 education institutions in the state to undertake parts of any research and development project for
49 which grant funding under this section is sought.

50 (c) To support effective planning and implementation of the matching grant fund, the
51 corporation shall develop program guidelines or regulations in consultation with the University
52 of Massachusetts and such other institutions or persons as deemed appropriate by the
53 corporation. The corporation shall annually file a report with the joint committee on higher
54 education and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing the grants awarded
55 under this section.

56 SECTION 4. To meet expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state
57 treasurer shall, upon the request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
58 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,
59 $100,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their
60 face, the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation Scientific and Technology Research and
61 Development Matching Grant Fund Act of 2011, and shall be issued for a maximum term of

62 years, not exceeding 30 years as the governor may recommend to the general court under section
63 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be payable not later
64 than June 30, 2048. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall
65 be payable from the General Fund. Bonds and interest on bonds issued under this section shall,
66 notwithstanding any other provision of this act, be general obligations of the commonwealth.