

By: Creighton, et al.

S.B. No. 1295

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to financial support and incentives for comprehensive regional universities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 62.003(1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise provided by Subchapters C, D, E, F, ~~and~~ G, and I, "eligible institution" means the eligible agencies and institutions of higher education listed in Article VII, Section 17(b), of the Constitution of Texas, and any institution or agency of higher education that is later made eligible to participate in the disbursement of funds pursuant to Article VII, Section 17(c), of the Constitution of Texas.

SECTION 2. Chapter 62, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Sec. 62.181. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "At-risk student" means an undergraduate student of an eligible institution:

(A) whose score on the SAT or ACT assessment test is less than the national mean score of students' scores on that test; or

(B) who has previously received a grant under the federal Pell Grant program.

1 (2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of
2 higher education designated as a comprehensive university,
3 doctoral university, or master's university under the coordinating
4 board's accountability system.

5 Sec. 62.182. PURPOSE. The purpose of this subchapter is to
6 provide funding to each eligible institution to support the
7 institution in serving at-risk students, helping meet the state's
8 workforce needs, and enhancing the institution's regional economy.

9 Sec. 62.183. FUNDING. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), for
10 each state fiscal biennium, an eligible institution is entitled to
11 receive an amount equal to the sum of:

12 (1) a base amount of \$500,000 or a greater base amount
13 provided by appropriation; and

14 (2) the product of \$1,000 or a greater amount provided
15 by appropriation and the average number of at-risk students awarded
16 a degree by the institution each year during the three state fiscal
17 years preceding the biennium.

18 (b) An alternative method of allocating funding under this
19 section may be provided by appropriation.

20 Sec. 62.184. STUDY AND REPORT. (a) The coordinating board,
21 in consultation with a representative group of eligible
22 institutions, shall conduct a study on the method of funding
23 provided under Section 62.183 to determine that method's
24 effectiveness in:

25 (1) allocating state funds fairly and equitably; and

26 (2) promoting student success at eligible
27 institutions.

1 (b) Not later than September 1, 2022, the coordinating board
2 shall submit to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board a
3 report on the results of the study and any recommendations for
4 legislative or other action.

5 (c) This section expires September 1, 2023.

6 SECTION 3. An eligible institution is entitled to receive
7 funding under Section 62.183, Education Code, as added by this Act,
8 beginning with the first state fiscal biennium for which money is
9 appropriated for that purpose.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.