

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 1295

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state support for comprehensive regional universities
in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 62, Education Code, is amended by adding
Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Sec. 62.171. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

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

(A) whose score on the Scholastic Assessment Test
(SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) 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 or met the Expected Family
Contribution(EFC) criterion for a grant under that program.

(2) "Comprehensive regional university" means an
institution of higher education that is designated as a doctoral,
comprehensive, or master's university under the coordinating
board's accountability system.

(3) "Eligible institution" means a comprehensive
regional university.

Sec. 62.172. PURPOSE. The purpose of this subchapter is to
provide funding to each comprehensive regional university to

1 support their mission to serve at-risk students, help meet the
2 state's workforce needs, and enhance their regional economies.

3 Sec. 62.173. FUNDING. (a) In each state fiscal year,
4 amounts shall be appropriated for purposes of this subchapter to
5 eligible institutions as follows:

6 (1) a base amount of \$500,000 or a greater amount
7 provided by appropriation to each eligible institution; and

8 (2) \$1,000 or a greater amount provided by
9 appropriation for each degree awarded to an at-risk student by an
10 eligible institution.

11 (b) The number of degrees awarded under Subsection (a)(2) is
12 determined by using the average number of degrees awarded to
13 at-risk students annually by each institution in the three
14 preceding state fiscal years.

15 (c) An alternative allocation method for this funding may be
16 provided by appropriation.

17 Sec. 62.174. STUDY AND REPORT. (a) The coordinating board
18 in consultation with a representative group of eligible
19 institutions shall conduct a study of the funding methodology
20 established under Section 62.173 to determine its effectiveness in:

21 (1) allocating state funds fairly and equitably; and
22 (2) promoting student success at eligible
23 institutions.

24 (b) Not later than September 1, 2022, the coordinating board
25 shall submit to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board a
26 written report that includes the study's findings and any
27 recommendations for legislative or other action.

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

2 SECTION 2. (a) The funding for this Act for the state fiscal
3 years ending in 2022 and 2023 is contingent on the legislature
4 providing a specific appropriation for the implementation of this
5 Act in the general appropriations act of the 87th legislature.

6 (b) This Act takes effect immediately if this Act receives
7 the votes of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, those
10 sections take effect September 1, 2021.