

By: Ortega

H.B. No. 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a study regarding establishing a public law school as a
3 professional school of The University of Texas at El Paso.

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

5 SECTION 1. FEASIBILITY STUDY. (a) The president of The
6 University of Texas at El Paso shall designate a department or
7 entity at the university to conduct a study to examine the need for
8 and feasibility of establishing a school of law as a professional
9 school of The University of Texas at El Paso. The department or
10 entity may seek the assistance of outside experts or consultants,
11 as necessary.

12 (b) The study must:

13 (1) assess the need for establishing an institution
14 described by Subsection (a) of this section;

15 (2) include a financial plan for establishing an
16 institution described by Subsection (a) of this section, including
17 the cost associated with establishing the institution; and

18 (3) examine the feasibility of establishing an
19 institution described by Subsection (a) of this section, including
20 the projected timeline for accreditation of the institution.

21 SECTION 2. REPORT. (a) The department or entity at The
22 University of Texas at El Paso designated to conduct the study under
23 Section 1 of this Act shall prepare a written report summarizing the
24 results of the study. The report must also:

1 (1) identify the challenges related to establishing a
2 school of law as a professional school of The University of Texas at
3 El Paso;

4 (2) include recommendations for legislative or other
5 action; and

6 (3) include any other matter the department or entity
7 considers appropriate.

8 (b) Not later than September 1, 2024, the department or
9 entity described by Subsection (a) of this section shall submit the
10 report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

11 SECTION 3. FUNDING. The department or entity at The
12 University of Texas at El Paso designated to conduct the study under
13 Section 1 of this Act may use money appropriated by the legislature
14 or otherwise available for the purpose to pay for any costs
15 associated with conducting the study and with preparing the report
16 required by Section 2 of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires December 1, 2024.

18 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
19 1, 2023.