

By: Pickett

H.B. No. 32

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an appropriation to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center for the purpose of attaining accreditation of a four-year medical school in El Paso and authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the center for an academic building to support the center's educational programs in El Paso.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In addition to other amounts that may be expended for this purpose, the amount of \$2 million is appropriated out of the Texas Enterprise Fund to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center for the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2003, for the purpose of initiating the actions and processes, including faculty recruitment, obtaining equipment, and reimbursing the health sciences center for debt service for revenue bonds authorized by Section 55.1749, Education Code, as added by this Act, necessary to attain accreditation of a four-year medical school in El Paso.

(b) The amount of the Texas Enterprise Fund available to the office of the governor for grants under Section 481.078, Government Code, as added by S.B. No. 1771, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, is correspondingly reduced by \$2 million.

SECTION 2. In addition to the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this Act, for the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2003, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center may expend

1 any gifts, grants, donations, and other funds identified by the  
2 center for the purposes stated in Section 1 of this Act, in an  
3 amount estimated to be not less than \$3 million.

4 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is  
5 amended by adding Section 55.1749 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 55.1749. TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
7 REVENUE BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by  
8 this subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas Tech University  
9 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
10 enlarge, or equip property, buildings, structures, or other  
11 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for the  
12 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center for an academic  
13 building to support the center's educational programs in the city  
14 of El Paso, to be financed by the issuance of bonds in accordance  
15 with this subchapter, including bonds issued in accordance with a  
16 systemwide revenue financing program and secured as provided by  
17 that program, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$45  
18 million.

19 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of the  
20 bonds authorized by Subsection (a) all or any part of the revenue  
21 funds of Texas Tech University or the Texas Tech University Health  
22 Sciences Center, including student tuition charges. The amount of  
23 a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated  
24 while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to  
25 refund those bonds, are outstanding.

26 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to  
27 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer

1 funds between Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University  
2 Health Sciences Center to ensure the most equitable and efficient  
3 allocation of available resources for Texas Tech University and the  
4 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to carry out their  
5 duties and purposes.

6 (d) Any portion of the proceeds of bonds authorized by this  
7 section that is not required for the academic building described by  
8 Subsection (a) may be used by the Texas Tech University System to  
9 renovate existing structures and facilities of the Texas Tech  
10 University Health Sciences Center.

11 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, if it  
12 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
13 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  
14 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary to take effect on  
15 that date, this Act takes effect December 1, 2003.