

By: Merritt

H.B. No. 1785

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a geriatric education and care research center for the Texas-Louisiana border region.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter K, Chapter 74, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 74.604 to read as follows:

Sec. 74.604. EAST TEXAS CENTER FOR BORDER REGION GERIATRIC STUDIES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Board" means the board of regents of The University of Texas System.

(2) "Center" means the East Texas Center for Border Region Geriatric Studies.

(3) "Texas-Louisiana border region" has the meaning assigned by Section 2056.002, Government Code.

(b) The board may establish the East Texas Center for Border Region Geriatric Studies at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler for purposes of:

(1) researching issues in the Texas-Louisiana border region that are related to geriatrics, gerontology, and long-term care for the elderly; and

(2) providing resources in the Texas-Louisiana border region for training and research for:

(A) professionals in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health;

1 (B) caregivers and advocates for the elderly; and

2 (C) individuals employed by agencies that adopt
3 rules affecting the elderly.

4 (c) The organization, control, and management of the center
5 are vested in the board.

6 (d) If the board establishes the center, the board:

7 (1) shall provide for the employment of staff and an
8 operating budget for the center;

9 (2) shall select a site in the Texas-Louisiana border
10 region for the center; and

11 (3) may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and
12 grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of
13 the center.

14 (e) Establishment of the center is subject to the
15 availability of federal funding or other funding for that purpose.
16 The board may not use legislative appropriations, other than
17 federal funds or gifts or grants subject to appropriation, to
18 establish or operate the center.

19 (f) An employee of the center is an employee of The
20 University of Texas System.

21 (g) The center may enter into an agreement or may cooperate
22 with a public or private entity to perform the functions of the
23 center.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.