

By: Ritter

H.B. No. 3262

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a Center for Excellence at Lamar University at Beaumont.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 96, Education Code is amended by adding Section 96.708 to read as follows:

Sec. 96.708. LAMAR UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR DEAF STUDIES. (a)

In this section:

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

(2) "Center" means the Lamar University Center for Deaf Studies.

(b) The board shall establish the Lamar University Center for Deaf Studies for the purposes of advancing deaf education programs in Texas.

(c) The center shall:

(1) collaborate with the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Texas School for the Deaf to assess deaf education needs in the state and strategies to address them;

(2) study bilingual education programs for the deaf;

(3) study improved teacher training; and

(4) study incorporation of technology into deaf education

(d) The center shall develop a strategic plan to guide and

1 evaluate the center's progress toward achieving the purposes of the
2 center in accordance with this section. The strategic plan must:

3 (1) describe the goals, objectives, and performance
4 standards for each of the center's programs and how those programs
5 help the center to achieve its purposes;

6 (2) assess the needs of the center's programs and
7 faculty; and

8 (3) assess the center's need for new initiatives.

9 (e) The organization, control, and management of the center
10 are vested in the board.

11 (f) The employment of personnel by and the operating budget
12 of the center are subject to board approval. An employee of the
13 center is an employee of the Texas State University System.

14 (g) The board shall select a site for the center at the Lamar
15 University at Beaumont.

16 (h) The center may enter into an agreement or may cooperate
17 with a public or private entity to perform the research functions of
18 the center.

19 (i) The board may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and
20 grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of
21 the center.

22 SECTION 2. The board of regents of the Texas State
23 University System shall establish the Center for Deaf Studies as
24 provided by Section 96.708, Education Code, as added by this Act,
25 not later than January 1, 2005.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.