

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 3279

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the authority of certain municipalities to use economic  
3 development funds to provide educational and job training  
4 opportunities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 380, Local Government Code, is amended  
7 by adding Section 380.004 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 380.004. EDUCATIONAL AND JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

9 (a) This section applies only to a municipality located in a county  
10 with a population of less than 1.8 million.

11 (b) In addition to any other economic planning and  
12 development program authorized by this subtitle, a municipality may  
13 also provide for the establishment, administration, and support of:

14 (1) long-term job training programs, including  
15 in-training support service grants;

16 (2) college scholarship programs for local public high  
17 school students;

18 (3) after school programs of learning and enrichment  
19 activities for local public elementary and middle school students;

20 (4) early childhood development programs, including a  
21 program to assist in life skills education; and

22 (5) comprehensive literacy programs, including  
23 accelerated programs and programs that serve the local community.

24 (c) A municipality by ordinance shall establish criteria

1 for the award of funds for a program established under this section.

2 (d) In establishing a program, a municipality shall  
3 describe the public purpose for the program and how the program will  
4 promote state or local economic development or stimulate business  
5 or commercial activity in the municipality.

6 (e) Funds or any method of funding that may be used for  
7 another program in this subtitle may also be used for a program  
8 administered under this section.

9 (f) Funds or any method of funding that may be used to build  
10 a venue under Chapter 334 or 335 or that have been used under  
11 another law to build an arena, coliseum, stadium, or other similar  
12 facility may also be used for a program administered under this  
13 section.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.