

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 111

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a voting student member on the board of regents of The
3 University of Texas System.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 65.11, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 65.11. BOARD OF REGENTS. (a) The government of the
8 university system is vested in a board of nine regents appointed by
9 the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

10 (b) The governor shall appoint one of the regents as
11 provided by Section 65.111.

12 (c) The board may provide for the administration,
13 organization, and names of the institutions and entities in The
14 University of Texas System in such a way as will achieve the maximum
15 operating efficiency of such institutions and entities, provided,
16 however, that no institution or entity of The University of Texas
17 System not authorized by specific legislative act to offer a
18 four-year undergraduate program as of the effective date of this
19 Act shall offer any such four-year undergraduate program without
20 prior recommendation and approval by a two-thirds vote of the Texas
21 Higher Education Coordinating Board and a specific act of the
22 Legislature.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 65, Education Code, is
24 amended by adding Section 65.111 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 65.111. STUDENT REGENT. (a) In this section:

2 (1) "General academic teaching institution" has the
3 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

4 (2) "Student government" means the representative
5 student organization directly elected by the student body of a
6 general academic teaching institution.

7 (b) The chancellor of The University of Texas System shall
8 develop a uniform application form to be used by each general
9 academic teaching institution to solicit applicants for the
10 position of student regent. The chancellor shall consult with The
11 University of Texas System Student Advisory Council before adopting
12 or amending the form.

13 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (f), not later than the
14 October 1 preceding the date on which the term of a student regent
15 expires, the student government of each general academic teaching
16 institution in the system shall solicit applicants for the position
17 of student regent. The student government shall remove from each
18 application the name of the applicant and the name of the general
19 academic teaching institution attended by the applicant and shall
20 send each application received by the student government to The
21 University of Texas System Student Advisory Council. From among
22 the applications received by the council, the council shall select
23 five applicants as the council's recommendations for the position
24 of student regent and send the applications of those applicants to
25 the chancellor of the system. From among the applicants whose
26 applications are received by the chancellor, the chancellor shall
27 select two or more applicants as the system's recommendations for

1 the position of student regent and shall send the applications of
2 those applicants to the governor. The governor may request to
3 review all applications for the position of student regent received
4 by The University of Texas System Student Advisory Council and may
5 request to review information required to be removed from an
6 application by a student government under this subsection. The
7 governor with the advice and consent of the senate shall appoint one
8 of the applicants to serve as student regent for the next term of
9 that office. The governor is not required to appoint an applicant
10 recommended by the chancellor.

11 (d) A student regent must be enrolled as an undergraduate or
12 graduate student in a general academic teaching institution in the
13 system at the time of appointment. For purposes of this subsection,
14 a person is considered to be enrolled in an institution for a summer
15 term if the person was enrolled in the institution for the preceding
16 semester and:

17 (1) is registered or preregistered at the institution
18 for the following fall semester;

19 (2) if the person has not completed the person's degree
20 program, is eligible to continue the degree program at the
21 institution in the following fall semester; or

22 (3) if the person completed a degree in the preceding
23 semester, is admitted to another degree program at the institution
24 for the following fall semester.

25 (e) The student regent has the same powers and duties,
26 including voting privileges, as the other board members under
27 Subchapter C.

1 (f) The student government of the general academic teaching
2 institution at which the current student regent was enrolled at the
3 time of the regent's appointment may not solicit applicants for the
4 position of student regent for the next regular term of office.

5 (g) A vacancy in the position of student regent shall be
6 filled for the unexpired term as provided by Subsection (c).

7 (h) If a vacancy in the board of regents occurs before
8 February 1, 2005, the vacancy shall be filled by a student regent as
9 provided by Subsection (c) as soon as practicable. Notwithstanding
10 Section 65.12(c), the term of a student regent appointed to fill a
11 vacancy under this subsection expires February 1, 2005. On the
12 expiration of the term of a student regent appointed under this
13 section, any remainder of the term shall be filled by the governor
14 as provided by Section 65.11(a). This subsection expires January
15 1, 2006.

16 SECTION 3. Section 65.12, Education Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 65.12. QUALIFICATIONS; TERMS. (a) A regent must [Each
19 member of the board shall] be a qualified voter.

20 (b) The regents [, and the members] shall be selected from
21 different geographic regions [portions] of the state.

22 (c) The regents appointed under Section 65.11(a) [members]
23 hold office for staggered terms of six years, with the terms of two
24 or three regents, as applicable, expiring February 1 of
25 odd-numbered years.

26 (d) A student regent appointed under Section 65.111 holds
27 office for a term of three years, with the term of the initial

1 student regent expiring February 1, 2008.

2 SECTION 4. (a) This Act takes effect October 1, 2003.

3 (b) The appropriate student governments, the chancellor of
4 The University of Texas System, and the governor shall take the
5 actions required by Section 65.111, Education Code, as added by
6 this Act, as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect to
7 select a student regent to serve on the board of regents of The
8 University of Texas System for a term expiring February 1, 2008.

9 (c) This Act does not affect the term of a member of the
10 board of regents of The University of Texas System serving on the
11 effective date of this Act.