

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 462

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an asthma research center at the Texas Tech University campus in El Paso.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 110, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 110.151 to read as follows:

Sec. 110.151. TEXAS TECH ASTHMA RESEARCH CENTER. (a) In this section:

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

(2) "Center" means the Texas Tech Asthma Research Center.

(b) The board shall establish the Texas Tech Asthma Research Center. The center shall operate in collaboration with The University of Texas at El Paso and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The center shall conduct research related to:

(1) asthma; and

(2) conditions associated with that disease, including health problems associated with industrial pollution and other environmental contamination in this state in the region adjacent to the United Mexican States.

(d) The center shall:

(1) collaborate with the Texas Department of Health to

1 develop a standard definition of asthma and to identify entities to  
2 collect and report asthma and related health data to the center;

3 (2) study asthma and related health problems  
4 associated with industrial pollution and environmental  
5 contamination in this state at international bridge crossings and  
6 state or federal industrial cleanup sites in the region adjacent to  
7 the United Mexican States;

8 (3) investigate the areas in this state that are  
9 identified as having abnormally high incidence of asthma and  
10 related health problems;

11 (4) study the impact of air and soil quality on the  
12 health of the residents of this state in the region adjacent to the  
13 United Mexican States; and

14 (5) study the impact of motor vehicle traffic on the  
15 health of the residents of this state in the region adjacent to the  
16 United Mexican States.

17 (e) The center shall develop a 10-year strategic plan to  
18 guide and evaluate the center's progress toward achieving the  
19 purposes of the center in accordance with this section,  
20 particularly with respect to the region adjacent to the United  
21 Mexican States. The strategic plan must:

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

25 (2) recommend guidelines on air quality and air  
26 pollution standards in relation to health issues and the monitoring  
27 and compliance necessary to enforce the guidelines;

1           (3) recommend preventative and corrective steps to  
2 reduce or eliminate adverse health effects identified in the study;

3           (4) assess the needs of the center's programs and  
4 faculty; and

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

6           (f) The center shall update the strategic plan required by  
7 Subsection (e) at least every two years. Not later than December 15  
8 of each even-numbered year, the board shall submit to the  
9 legislature a report concerning the strategic plan, including any  
10 recommendations for legislative action.

11           (g) The organization, control, and management of the center  
12 are vested in the board.

13           (h) The employment of personnel by and the operating budget  
14 of the center are subject to board approval. An employee of the  
15 center is an employee of the Texas Tech University System.

16           (i) The board shall select a site for the center at the  
17 regional academic health center of the Texas Tech University Health  
18 Sciences Center located in El Paso.

19           (j) The center may enter into an agreement or may cooperate  
20 with a public or private entity to perform the research functions of  
21 the center.

22           (k) The board may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and  
23 grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of  
24 the center.

25           SECTION 2. The board of regents of the Texas Tech University  
26 System shall establish the Texas Tech Asthma Research Center as  
27 provided by Section 110.151, Education Code, as added by this Act,

1 not later than January 1, 2005.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.