

By: Madla, et al.

S.B. No. 800

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the establishment of Texas A&M University--San Antonio and Texas A&M University--Central Texas.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 87, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--SAN ANTONIO

Sec. 87.841. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--SAN ANTONIO. (a) Texas A&M University--San Antonio is a general academic teaching institution located in Bexar County. The university is a component institution of The Texas A&M University System and is under the management and control of the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System.

(b) The board may prescribe courses leading to such customary degrees as are offered at leading American universities and may award those degrees. Those degrees may include baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees in all fields of study, including professional degrees. No department, school, or degree program may be instituted except with the prior approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(c) The board also has the same powers and duties concerning Texas A&M University--San Antonio as are conferred on the board by statute concerning Texas A&M University.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,

1 Texas A&M University--San Antonio may not operate as a general  
2 academic teaching institution until the Texas Higher Education  
3 Coordinating Board certifies that enrollment at the Texas A&M  
4 University--Kingsville System Center--San Antonio has reached an  
5 enrollment equivalent of 2,500 full-time students for one semester.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 87, Education Code, is amended by adding  
7 Subchapter L to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER L. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--CENTRAL TEXAS

9 Sec. 87.861. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--CENTRAL TEXAS.

10 (a) Texas A&M University--Central Texas is a general academic  
11 teaching institution located in Bell County. The university is a  
12 component institution of The Texas A&M University System and is  
13 under the management and control of the board of regents of The  
14 Texas A&M University System.

15 (b) The board may prescribe courses leading to such  
16 customary degrees as are offered at leading American universities  
17 and may award those degrees. Those degrees may include  
18 baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees in all fields of  
19 study, including professional degrees. No department, school, or  
20 degree program may be instituted except with the prior approval of  
21 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

22 (c) The board also has the same powers and duties concerning  
23 Texas A&M University--Central Texas as are conferred on the board  
24 by statute concerning Texas A&M University.

25 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,  
26 Texas A&M University--Central Texas may not operate as a general  
27 academic teaching institution until the Texas Higher Education

1 Coordinating Board certifies that enrollment at the Tarleton State  
2 University System Center--Central Texas in Killeen has reached an  
3 enrollment equivalent of 2,500 full-time students for one semester.

4 SECTION 3. Section 61.056, Education Code, does not apply  
5 to this Act. This Act does not affect the authority of the board of  
6 regents of The Texas A&M University System to operate a system  
7 center or branch campus of any component institution of The Texas  
8 A&M University System in Bexar County or Bell County.

9 SECTION 4. Subchapter J, Chapter 87, Education Code, is  
10 repealed.

11 SECTION 5. It is the intent of the legislature that the  
12 board of regents of The Texas A&M University System consult with  
13 existing general academic teaching institutions and community  
14 colleges in the Central Texas area as well as local governments and  
15 community leaders prior to a decision by the board to offer  
16 lower-division courses at Texas A&M University--Central Texas.

17 SECTION 6. In accordance with Subsection (c), Section 18,  
18 Article VII, Texas Constitution, if this Act receives a vote of  
19 two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, the  
20 institutions created by this Act are entitled to participate in the  
21 funding provided by Section 18, Article VII, Texas Constitution,  
22 for The Texas A&M University System.

23 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.