

AN ACT

relating to the financing authority of and to the establishment of certain general academic teaching institutions in The Texas A&M University System.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,
27 Texas A&M University--Central Texas may not operate as a general

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

5 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 55.1741 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 55.1741. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
8 REVENUE BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by
9 this subchapter, the board of regents of The Texas A&M University
10 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
11 enlarge, or equip property, buildings, structures, or other
12 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for The
13 Texas A&M University System Health Science Center to develop a
14 biosciences research center in the City of Temple, to be financed by
15 the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, including
16 bonds issued in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing
17 program and secured as provided by that program, in an aggregate
18 principal amount not to exceed \$15 million.

19 (b) The board of regents may pledge irrevocably to the
20 payment of the bonds authorized by this section all or any part of
21 the revenue funds of an institution, branch, or entity of The Texas
22 A&M University System, including student tuition charges. The
23 amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or
24 abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds
25 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

26 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board of
27 regents to meet its obligations under this section, the board may

1 transfer funds among institutions, branches, and entities of The
2 Texas A&M University System to ensure the most equitable and
3 efficient allocation of available resources for each institution,
4 branch, or entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

5 (d) If the Temple Health and Bioscience Economic
6 Development District is established, the district is responsible
7 for the payment of debt service on the bonds authorized by this
8 section for any facilities financed by the bonds that are located in
9 the district and used to support the purposes or programs of the
10 district.

11 (e) The legislature may not appropriate general revenue to
12 pay, or to reimburse the board of regents or Texas A&M University
13 for the payment of, debt service on bonds authorized by this
14 section.

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

20 SECTION 5. Subchapter J, Chapter 87, Education Code, is
21 repealed.

22 SECTION 6. It is the intent of the legislature that the
23 board of regents of The Texas A&M University System consult with
24 existing general academic teaching institutions and community
25 colleges in the Central Texas area as well as local governments and
26 community leaders prior to a decision by the board to offer
27 lower-division courses at Texas A&M University--Central Texas.

1 SECTION 7. In accordance with Subsection (c), Section 18,
2 Article VII, Texas Constitution, if this Act receives a vote of
3 two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, the
4 institutions created by this Act are entitled to participate in the
5 funding provided by Section 18, Article VII, Texas Constitution,
6 for The Texas A&M University System.

7 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 800 passed the Senate on April 30, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 31, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 800 passed the House, with amendment, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor