

By: Ogden S.B. No. 1297
(In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2003; March 19, 2003, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education; May 1, 2003, reported to Committee on Education; May 6, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 6, 2003, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1297 By: West

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to financing authority for certain institutions of higher education for facilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 55.1735, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of the University of North Texas System may issue in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board bonds for the following institutions not to exceed the following aggregate principal amounts to finance projects specified as follows:

(1) the University of North Texas, \$52,933,750 to construct a science building and to develop the campus and facilities of the University of North Texas System Center at Dallas at the location to become the University of North Texas at Dallas; and

(2) the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, \$27.5 million to construct a biotechnology center and school of public health building.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 55.1744 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.1744. SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas State University System may issue bonds in accordance with this subchapter in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$27 million to finance the acquisition, purchase, construction, improvement, renovation, enlargement, or equipping of property, buildings, structures, facilities, or related infrastructure for a multi-institutional education center in Williamson County for Southwest Texas State University to offer educational programs and supporting activities and provide facilities for other educational entities to further institutional efficiency and coordinate educational programs.

(b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of those bonds all or any part of the revenue funds of Southwest Texas State University, including student tuition charges. No general revenue funds may be used for this purpose. The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

SECTION 3. Subsection (e), Section 61.0572, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Approval of the board is not required to acquire real property that is financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3) or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, ~~or~~ 55.174, or 55.1744, except that the board shall review all real property to be financed by bonds issued under those sections to determine whether the property meets the standards adopted by the board for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the property does not meet those standards, the board shall notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

SECTION 4. Subsection (b), Section 61.058, Education Code,

is amended to read as follows:

(b) This section does not apply to construction, repair, or rehabilitation financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3) or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, ~~[or]~~ 55.174, or 55.1744, except that the board shall review all construction, repair, or rehabilitation to be financed by bonds issued under those sections to determine whether the construction, rehabilitation, or repair meets the standards adopted by board rule for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the construction, rehabilitation, or repair does not meet those standards, the board shall notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

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

* * * * *