

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 48

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to Mexican American studies programs and course work at certain public junior colleges.

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

SECTION 1. Section 130.0102, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 130.0102. MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM OR COURSE WORK. (a) ~~[The governing board of a public junior college district located in one or more counties with a substantial and growing Mexican American population shall evaluate the demand for and feasibility of establishing a Mexican American studies program or other course work in Mexican American studies at one or more junior colleges in the district.]~~ With approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the governing board of a junior college district located in one or more counties with a substantial and growing Mexican American population may establish a Mexican American studies program or other course work in Mexican American studies at one or more of the junior ~~[any of these]~~ colleges in the district if the governing board determines that such a program or course work is desirable and feasible.

(b) Not later than June 1, 2006, and not later than June 1 of each 10th year after 2006, the governing board of a junior college district that has not established a Mexican American studies program or course work under Subsection (a) shall conduct a study to

1 evaluate the demand for and the feasibility of establishing a
2 program or course work under Subsection (a) at one or more junior
3 colleges in the district. The study must include consideration of
4 the diversity of and educational needs and attainment of the
5 population of the district and the region in which the district is
6 located and the adequacy of the institution's resources to maintain
7 a program or course work under Subsection (a).

8 (c) The governing board shall establish an advisory
9 committee or retain one or more individuals or entities with
10 relevant experience and expertise to perform or assist in the
11 performance of the study required by Subsection (b). To the extent
12 permitted by law, the governing board shall make a good faith effort
13 to solicit and encourage the use of historically underutilized
14 businesses in performing the study.

15 (d) Any resident of the junior college district may bring an
16 action to enforce Subsection (b) and, if the claim is successful,
17 may recover reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and court
18 costs.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect November 1, 2005.