

AN ACT

relating to appropriations to pay for damages and disruptions suffered by Lamar University and its related institutions caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "Lamar University or its related institutions" includes Lamar University and its educational centers, Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar State College--Port Arthur, and Lamar State College--Orange.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. (a) In addition to other appropriated amounts that may be used for this purpose, the amount of \$34 million is appropriated out of the general revenue fund to the Texas State University System for the two-year period beginning on the effective date of this Act for the purpose of paying for or reimbursing payments for costs associated with damages or disruptions caused by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita and suffered by Lamar University or its related institutions.

(b) The Texas State University System shall distribute the money appropriated by Subsection (a) of this section to Lamar University and its related institutions, allocating the money among Lamar University and its related institutions as the system considers appropriate to address the hurricane-related needs of those institutions.

(c) For purposes of Subsection (j)(1), Section 17, Article

1 VII, Texas Constitution, the legislature finds that damages to
2 property caused by the hurricanes were caused by a natural
3 disaster.

4 SECTION 3. PREVENTION OF DOUBLE RECOVERY OR DOUBLE
5 REIMBURSEMENT. (a) The purpose of this section is to prevent
6 double recovery or double reimbursement for the same
7 hurricane-related cost or expenditure.

8 (b) If the Texas State University System, Lamar University
9 or one of its related institutions, or another state agency,
10 institution, or office receives reimbursement from the federal
11 government for expenditures made for a purpose described by Section
12 2 of this Act, the amounts received may not be spent without the
13 prior approval of the governor and the Legislative Budget Board. A
14 federal reimbursement described by this subsection shall be
15 deposited in the state treasury and is considered to be undedicated
16 general revenue.

17 (c) It is the intent of the legislature that the governor
18 and the Legislative Budget Board consider the money described by
19 Subsection (b) of this section to be available for budget execution
20 transfers to the extent that the governor and the Legislative
21 Budget Board determine that the federal reimbursement covers the
22 same costs or expenditures as those covered by the appropriation
23 made by Section 2 of this Act.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
2 legislative session.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 63 was passed by the House on May 11, 2006, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 63 on May 15, 2006, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 49a, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 63

I certify that H.B. No. 63 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 12, 2006, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0; passed subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 49a, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Secretary of the Senate

I certify that the amounts appropriated in the herein H.B. No. 63, 3rd Called Session of the 79th Legislature, are within amounts estimated to be available in the affected fund.

Certified_____

Comptroller of Public Accounts

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor