

By: Taylor

H.B. No. 121

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for The
3 University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for National
4 Biocontainment Laboratory facilities and infrastructure.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 55.1752 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 55.1752. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
9 REVENUE BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by
10 this subchapter, the board of regents of The University of Texas
11 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
12 enlarge, or equip property, buildings, structures, or other
13 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for The
14 University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston National
15 Biocontainment Laboratory, to be financed by the issuance of bonds
16 in accordance with this subchapter, including bonds issued in
17 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program and secured
18 as provided by that program, in an aggregate principal amount not to
19 exceed \$57 million.

20 (b) The board of regents may pledge irrevocably to the
21 payment of the bonds authorized by this section all or any part of
22 the revenue funds of an institution, branch, or entity of The
23 University of Texas System, including student tuition charges. The
24 amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or

1 abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds
2 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

3 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board of
4 regents to meet its obligations under this section, the board may
5 transfer funds among institutions, branches, and entities of The
6 University of Texas System to ensure the most equitable and
7 efficient allocation of available resources for each institution,
8 branch, or entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

9 SECTION 2. Section 61.0572(e), Education Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (e) Approval of the board is not required to acquire real
12 property that is financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)
13 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.1735(a)(1), 55.174,
14 55.1742, 55.1743, ~~or~~ 55.1744, or 55.1752, except that the board
15 shall review all real property to be financed by bonds issued under
16 those sections to determine whether the property meets the
17 standards adopted by the board for cost, efficiency, and space use.
18 If the property does not meet those standards, the board shall
19 notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
20 house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

21 SECTION 3. Section 61.058(b), Education Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (b) This section does not apply to construction, repair, or
24 rehabilitation financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)
25 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.174, 55.1742,
26 55.1743, ~~or~~ 55.1744, or 55.1752, except that the board shall
27 review all construction, repair, or rehabilitation to be financed

1 by bonds issued under those sections to determine whether the
2 construction, rehabilitation, or repair meets the standards
3 adopted by board rule for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the
4 construction, rehabilitation, or repair does not meet those
5 standards, the board shall notify the governor, the lieutenant
6 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
7 Legislative Budget Board.

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
13 legislative session.