

Amend CSSB 1227 by adding the following new SECTIONS, appropriately numbered, and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION _____. Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 56.3012 to read as follows:

Sec. 56.3012. PILOT PROJECT TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR ATTENDANCE AT UNDERUTILIZED PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. (a) The coordinating board shall establish a TEXAS grant pilot project as provided by this section to encourage students to attend eligible public institutions of higher education that offer extensive baccalaureate degree program options and that have sufficient facilities, administrative infrastructure, and faculty to serve additional students in order to reduce the need for this state to construct additional facilities or hire additional faculty at other institutions of higher education.

(b) From money available under Section 56.310 for purposes of this subchapter and money available under Section 56.464 for purposes of Subchapter Q, the coordinating board shall set aside sufficient money to provide TEXAS grants for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 academic years to students who are initially eligible for a grant under Section 56.304 or 56.3041 in either of those years as follows:

(1) for not more than 400 additional students in excess of the total of fall 2004 TEXAS Grant awards at Angelo State University; and

(2) for not more than 200 additional students in excess of the total of fall 2004 TEXAS Grant awards at Sul Ross State University.

(c) To the extent money set aside under Subsection (b) is available for the purpose, a person awarded a grant as provided by Subsection (b) who continues to be eligible for a grant under Section 56.305 may receive a grant from the money set aside. If money set aside under Subsection (b) is not available to pay for a grant for a person awarded a grant as provided by Subsection (b) who continues to be eligible for a grant under Section 56.305, the person may receive a grant from the money available under Section 56.310 on the same basis as other TEXAS grant applicants.

(d) The coordinating board shall reallocate for grants under this subchapter or for loans under Subchapter Q, as applicable, any money set aside for purposes of the TEXAS grant pilot project that is not used in the academic year for which the money is set aside. Money reallocated under this subsection may be used at any eligible institution under this subchapter or Subchapter Q.

(e) Except as otherwise specifically provided by this section, this subchapter applies to a TEXAS grant awarded under this section.

(f) The coordinating board shall develop criteria for evaluating the TEXAS grant pilot project and, based on that evaluation, not later than January 1, 2007, shall report to the 80th Legislature the coordinating board's recommendations concerning whether to continue, expand to other underutilized eligible public institutions of higher education, or discontinue the TEXAS grant pilot project.

SECTION _____. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules to administer Section 56.3012, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the date this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the board may adopt the initial rules in the manner provided by law for adoption of emergency rules.