

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a Center for Excellence in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education at Lamar University.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 96, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 96.708 to read as follows:

Sec. 96.708. LAMAR UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEAF STUDIES AND DEAF EDUCATION. (a) In this section:

(1) "Board" means the board of regents of the Texas State University System.

(2) "Center" means the Lamar University Center for Excellence in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education.

(b) The board shall establish the Lamar University Center for Excellence in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education for the purposes of advancing deaf education programs in Texas by:

(1) collaborating with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and the Texas School for the Deaf to assess deaf education needs in this state and strategies to address those needs;

(2) studying bilingual education programs for the deaf;

(3) studying improved teacher training; and

(4) studying the incorporation of technology into deaf education.

1 (c) The center shall develop a strategic plan to guide and
2 evaluate the center's progress toward achieving the purposes of the
3 center in accordance with this section. The strategic plan must:

4 (1) describe the goals, objectives, and performance
5 standards for each of the center's programs and how those programs
6 help the center to achieve its purposes;

7 (2) assess the needs of the center's programs and
8 faculty; and

9 (3) assess the center's need for new initiatives.

10 (d) The organization, control, and management of the center
11 are vested in the board.

12 (e) The board shall select a location for the center at
13 Lamar University.

14 (f) The board may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and
15 grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of
16 the center.

17 (g) The board may use any available funds, including
18 legislative appropriations made to Lamar University for
19 instruction, operations, or infrastructure support, federal funds,
20 or gifts or grants to establish or operate the center.

21 SECTION 2. Subject to the availability of funding, the
22 board of regents of the Texas State University System shall
23 establish the Lamar University Center for Excellence in Deaf
24 Studies and Deaf Education as provided by Section 96.708, Education
25 Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2007.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 868 was passed by the House on April 29, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 868 was passed by the Senate on May 25, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor