

By: Ritter

H.B. No. 868

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a Center for Excellence in Deaf
3 Education and Communication Disorders at Lamar University in
4 Beaumont.

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

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

8 Sec. 96.708. LAMAR UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEAF
9 EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS. (a) In this section:

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

12 (2) "Center" means the Lamar University Center for
13 Excellence in Deaf Education and Communication Disorders.

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

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

21 (2) studying bilingual education programs for the
22 deaf;

23 (3) studying improved teacher training; and

24 (4) studying the incorporation of technology into deaf

1 education.

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

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

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

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

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

13 (e) The board shall:

14 (1) select a site for the center at Lamar University in
15 Beaumont; and

16 (2) provide for the employment of staff and an
17 operating budget for the center.

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

21 (g) An employee of the center is an employee of the Texas
22 State University System.

23 (h) The center may enter into an agreement or may cooperate
24 with a public or private entity to perform the research functions of
25 the center.

26 (i) The board may use any available funds, including
27 legislative appropriations made to Lamar University for

1 instruction, operations, or infrastructure support, federal funds,
2 or gifts or grants to establish or operate the center.

3 SECTION 2. Subject to the availability of funding, the
4 board of regents of the Texas State University System shall
5 establish the Center for Excellence in Deaf Education and
6 Communication Disorders as provided by Section 96.708, Education
7 Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2007.

8 SECTION 3. 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 September 1, 2005.