

By: Campbell, Gallego

H.B. No. 2041

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a TEXAS grant pilot project to provide incentives for
3 students to attend certain underutilized public institutions of
4 higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 56.3012 to read as follows:

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

18 (b) From money available under Section 56.310 for purposes
19 of this subchapter and money available under Section 56.464 for
20 purposes of Subchapter Q, the coordinating board shall set aside
21 sufficient money to provide TEXAS grants for the 2005-2006 and
22 2006-2007 academic years to students who are initially eligible for
23 a grant under Section 56.304 or 56.3041 in either of those years as
24 follows:

1 (1) for a total of not more than 1,000 students
2 enrolling for the first time at Angelo State University; and

3 (2) for a total of not more than 600 students enrolling
4 for the first time at Sul Ross State University.

5 (c) To the extent money set aside under Subsection (b) is
6 available for the purpose, a person awarded a grant as provided by
7 Subsection (b) who continues to be eligible for a grant under
8 Section 56.305 may receive a grant from the money set aside. If
9 money set aside under Subsection (b) is not available to pay for a
10 grant for a person awarded a grant as provided by Subsection (b) who
11 continues to be eligible for a grant under Section 56.305, the
12 person may receive a grant from the money available under Section
13 56.310 on the same basis as other TEXAS grant applicants.

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

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

24 (f) The coordinating board shall develop criteria for
25 evaluating the TEXAS grant pilot project and, based on that
26 evaluation, not later than January 1, 2007, shall report to the 80th
27 Legislature the coordinating board's recommendations concerning

1 whether to continue, expand to other underutilized eligible public
2 institutions of higher education, or discontinue the TEXAS grant
3 pilot project.

4 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
5 shall adopt rules to administer Section 56.3012, Education Code, as
6 added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the date this Act
7 takes effect. For that purpose, the board may adopt the initial
8 rules in the manner provided by law for adoption of emergency rules.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.