

By: Campbell

H.B. No. 2041

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to a Pilot Project to provide additional capacity for  
3 higher education undergraduate education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 56.3076 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 56.3076. Pilot Project to address existing capacity  
8 for higher education undergraduate education.

9 (a) To the extent existing facilities, administrative  
10 infrastructure and faculty can provide broad baccalaureate program  
11 options for the growing higher education undergraduate enrollment,  
12 and in order to mitigate the need for additional construction and  
13 the hiring of additional faculty, The Texas Higher Education  
14 Coordinating Board shall award grants in keeping with this  
15 Subchapter in an amount equal to the grant award under Section  
16 56.307 to a student who

17 (1) enrolls in either of the pilot project  
18 institutions established by this section who fulfills the  
19 eligibility requirements of Section 56.304 and

20 (2) meets all the requirements to receive a grant  
21 award under Section 56.307.

22 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
23 award initial awards under this Subchapter to up to 1,000 students  
24 at Angelo State University and 600 students at Sul Ross State

1 University for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 academic years and shall  
2 award continuation grants to pilot project students in future years  
3 in accordance with Section 56.305.

4 (c) Students eligible for Texas Grants under the Pilot  
5 Project provisions of Section 56.0876 are also eligible to apply  
6 for and receive other financial aid that they may be qualified to  
7 receive at Angelo State University or Sul Ross State University.  
8 The sum of all financial aid may not exceed the student's financial  
9 need.

10 (d) Funding for awards to pilot project students shall be  
11 provided through Texas Grants and B-on-Time funding.

12 (e) The Higher Education Coordinating Board shall develop  
13 the criteria for evaluating the pilot project and will report on  
14 their findings to the 80th Legislature in the spring of 2007. The  
15 pilot project will be evaluated by the legislature and a  
16 determination will be made by the 80th legislature concerning the  
17 continuation and expansion of the program to include other  
18 universities with existing capacity.

19 SECTION 2. (a) Section 1 of this Act applies beginning with  
20 the 2005-2006 academic year.

21 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
22 adopt rules for the administration of Subchapter M, Chapter 56,  
23 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after  
24 this Act takes effect, but no later than June 1, 2005. For that  
25 purpose, The Coordinating Board may adopt the initial rules in the  
26 manner provided by law for emergency rules.

27 SECTION 3. This act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the votes necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.