

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 95

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an asthma research center at the Texas Tech University campus in El Paso.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 110, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 110.151 to read as follows:

Sec. 110.151. TEXAS TECH ASTHMA RESEARCH CENTER. (a) In this section:

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

(2) "Center" means the Texas Tech Asthma Research Center.

(b) The board shall establish the Texas Tech Asthma Research Center. The center shall operate in collaboration with The University of Texas at El Paso and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The center shall conduct research related to:

(1) asthma; and

(2) conditions associated with asthma, including health problems associated with industrial pollution and other environmental contamination in this state in the region that borders the United Mexican States.

(d) The center shall:

(1) collaborate with the Department of State Health

1 Services to develop a standard definition of asthma and to identify
2 entities to collect and report asthma and related health data to the
3 center;

4 (2) study asthma and related health problems
5 associated with industrial pollution and environmental
6 contamination in this state at international bridge crossings and
7 state or federal industrial cleanup sites in the region that
8 borders the United Mexican States;

9 (3) investigate the areas in this state that the
10 center identifies as having abnormally high incidence of asthma and
11 related health problems;

12 (4) study the impact of air and soil quality on the
13 health of this state's residents in the region that borders the
14 United Mexican States; and

15 (5) study the impact of motor vehicle traffic on the
16 health of this state's residents in the region that borders the
17 United Mexican States.

18 (e) The center shall develop a 10-year strategic plan to
19 guide and evaluate the center's progress toward achieving the
20 center's purposes in accordance with this section, focusing on the
21 region of this state that borders the United Mexican States. The
22 strategic plan must:

23 (1) describe the goals, objectives, and performance
24 standards for each of the center's programs and how the programs
25 accomplish the center's purposes;

26 (2) recommend guidelines on air quality and air
27 pollution standards in relation to health issues and the monitoring

1 and compliance necessary to enforce the guidelines;

2 (3) recommend preventative and corrective steps to
3 reduce or eliminate adverse health effects identified in the study;

4 (4) assess the needs of the center's programs and
5 faculty; and

6 (5) assess the center's need for new initiatives.

7 (f) The center shall update the strategic plan required by
8 Subsection (e) at least every two years. Not later than December 15
9 of each even-numbered year, the board shall submit to the
10 legislature a report concerning the strategic plan, including any
11 recommendations for legislative action.

12 (g) The board shall organize, control, and manage the
13 center.

14 (h) The board shall approve the center's employment of
15 personnel and operating budget. An employee of the center is an
16 employee of the Texas Tech University System.

17 (i) The board shall select a site for the center at the
18 regional academic health center of the Texas Tech University Health
19 Sciences Center located in El Paso.

20 (j) The center may enter into an agreement or may cooperate
21 with a public or private entity to perform the research functions of
22 the center.

23 (k) The board may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and
24 grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of
25 the center.

26 SECTION 2. The board of regents of the Texas Tech University
27 System shall establish the Texas Tech Asthma Research Center as

1 provided by Section 110.151, Education Code, as added by this Act,
2 not later than January 1, 2007.

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