

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 448
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 10, 2005; February 15, 2005,
1-3 read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 12, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute to Committee on Education; April 18, 2005, reported
1-6 adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute from Committee on
1-7 Education by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 18, 2005,
1-8 sent to printer.)

1-9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 448 By: Zaffirini

1-10 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-11 AN ACT

1-12 relating to the Texas Academy of International Studies at Texas A&M
1-13 International University.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 87, Education Code, is
1-16 amended by adding Section 87.505 to read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 87.505. TEXAS ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES.

1-18 (a) In this section:

1-19 (1) "Academy" means the Texas Academy of International
1-20 Studies.

1-21 (2) "Board" means the board of regents of The Texas A&M
1-22 University System.

1-23 (3) "University" means Texas A&M International
1-24 University.

1-25 (b) The Texas Academy of International Studies is a division
1-26 of Texas A&M International University and is under the management
1-27 and control of the board. The academy serves the following
1-28 purposes:

1-29 (1) to provide academically gifted and highly
1-30 motivated junior and senior high school students with a challenging
1-31 university-level curriculum that:

1-32 (A) allows students to complete high school
1-33 graduation requirements, including requirements adopted under
1-34 Section 28.025 for the advanced high school program, while
1-35 attending for academic credit a public institution of higher
1-36 education;

1-37 (B) fosters students' knowledge of real-world
1-38 international issues and problems and teaches students to apply
1-39 critical thinking and problem-solving skills to those issues and
1-40 problems;

1-41 (C) includes the study of English, foreign
1-42 languages, social studies, anthropology, and sociology;

1-43 (D) is presented through an interdisciplinary
1-44 approach that introduces and develops issues, especially issues
1-45 related to international concerns, throughout the curriculum; and

1-46 (E) offers students learning opportunities
1-47 related to international issues through in-depth research and
1-48 field-based studies;

1-49 (2) to provide students with an awareness of
1-50 international career and professional development opportunities
1-51 through seminars, workshops, collaboration with postsecondary
1-52 students from other countries, summer academic international
1-53 studies internships in foreign countries, and similar methods; and

1-54 (3) to provide students with social development
1-55 activities that enrich the academic curriculum and student life,
1-56 including, as determined appropriate by the academy, University
1-57 Interscholastic League activities and other extracurricular
1-58 activities generally offered by public high schools.

1-59 (c) The academy is a residential, coeducational institution
1-60 for selected Texas high school students with an interest and the
1-61 potential to excel in international studies. The academy shall
1-62 admit only high school juniors and seniors, except that the academy
1-63 may admit a student with exceptional abilities who is not yet a high

2-1 school junior. The board shall set aside adequate space on the
 2-2 university campus in Laredo to operate the academy and implement
 2-3 the purposes of this section. The academy must operate on the same
 2-4 fall and spring semester basis as the university. Full-time
 2-5 students of the academy must enroll for both the fall and spring
 2-6 semesters. Faculty members of the university shall teach all
 2-7 academic classes at the academy. A student of the academy may
 2-8 attend a college course offered by the university and receive
 2-9 college credit for that course.

2-10 (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the
 2-11 university administration has the same powers and duties with
 2-12 respect to the academy that the administration has with respect to
 2-13 the university. The board shall consult with the dean of the
 2-14 College of Education and other members of the administration as the
 2-15 board considers necessary concerning the academy's administrative
 2-16 design and support, personnel and student issues, and faculty
 2-17 development. The board shall consult with the dean of the College
 2-18 of Arts and Sciences and other members of the administration as the
 2-19 board considers necessary concerning the academy's curriculum
 2-20 development, program design, and general faculty issues. The
 2-21 board, in consultation with university administration, shall:

2-22 (1) establish an internal management system for the
 2-23 academy and appoint an academy principal who serves at the will of
 2-24 the board and reports to the university provost;

2-25 (2) provide for one or more academy counselors;

2-26 (3) establish for the academy a site-based
 2-27 decision-making process similar to the process required by
 2-28 Subchapter F, Chapter 11, that provides for the participation of
 2-29 academy faculty, parents of academy students, and other members of
 2-30 the community; and

2-31 (4) establish an admissions process for the academy.

2-32 (e) The student-teacher ratio in all regular academic
 2-33 classes at the academy may not exceed 30 students for each classroom
 2-34 teacher, except that the student-teacher ratio may exceed that
 2-35 limit:

2-36 (1) in a program provided for the purposes prescribed
 2-37 by Subsection (b)(2) or another special enrichment course or in a
 2-38 physical education course; or

2-39 (2) if the board determines that a class with a higher
 2-40 student-teacher ratio would contribute to the educational
 2-41 development of the students in the class.

2-42 (f) The academy shall provide the university-level
 2-43 curriculum in a manner that is appropriate for the social,
 2-44 psychological, emotional, and physical development of high school
 2-45 juniors and seniors. The administrative and counseling personnel
 2-46 of the academy shall provide continuous support to and supervision
 2-47 of students.

2-48 (g) For each student enrolled in the academy, the academy is
 2-49 entitled to allotments from the foundation school fund under
 2-50 Chapter 42 as if the academy were a school district without a tier
 2-51 one local share for purposes of Section 42.253. If in any academic
 2-52 year the amount of the allotments under this subsection exceeds the
 2-53 amount of state funds paid to the academy in the first fiscal year
 2-54 of the academy's operation, the commissioner of education shall set
 2-55 aside from the total amount of funds to which school districts are
 2-56 entitled under Section 42.253(c) an amount equal to the excess
 2-57 amount and shall distribute that amount to the academy. After
 2-58 deducting the amount set aside and paid to the academy by the
 2-59 commissioner of education under this subsection, the commissioner
 2-60 of education shall reduce the amount to which each district is
 2-61 entitled under Section 42.253(c) in the manner described by Section
 2-62 42.253(h). A determination of the commissioner of education under
 2-63 this subsection is final and may not be appealed.

2-64 (h) The board may use any available money, enter into
 2-65 contracts, and accept grants, including matching grants, federal
 2-66 grants, and grants from a corporation or other private contributor,
 2-67 in establishing and operating the academy. Money spent by the
 2-68 academy must further the purposes of the academy prescribed by
 2-69 Subsection (b).

3-1 (i) The liability of the state under Chapters 101 and 104,
 3-2 Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is limited for the academy and
 3-3 employees assigned to the academy and acting on behalf of the
 3-4 academy to the same extent that the liability of a school district
 3-5 and an employee of the school district is limited under Sections
 3-6 22.0511, 22.0512, and 22.052 of this code and Section 101.051,
 3-7 Civil Practice and Remedies Code. An employee assigned to the
 3-8 academy is entitled to representation by the attorney general in a
 3-9 civil suit based on an action or omission of the employee in the
 3-10 course of the employee's employment, limits on liability, and
 3-11 indemnity under Chapters 104 and 108, Civil Practice and Remedies
 3-12 Code.

3-13 (j) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the
 3-14 academy is not subject to the provisions of this code, or to the
 3-15 rules of the Texas Education Agency, regulating public schools.

3-16 (k) A student may not begin attending the academy before the
 3-17 2007 fall semester. This subsection expires August 31, 2008.

3-18 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 25.086, Education Code,
 3-19 is amended to read as follows:

3-20 (a) A child is exempt from the requirements of compulsory
 3-21 school attendance if the child:

3-22 (1) attends a private or parochial school that
 3-23 includes in its course a study of good citizenship;

3-24 (2) is eligible to participate in a school district's
 3-25 special education program under Section 29.003 and cannot be
 3-26 appropriately served by the resident district;

3-27 (3) has a physical or mental condition of a temporary
 3-28 and remediable nature that makes the child's attendance infeasible
 3-29 and holds a certificate from a qualified physician specifying the
 3-30 temporary condition, indicating the treatment prescribed to remedy
 3-31 the temporary condition, and covering the anticipated period of the
 3-32 child's absence from school for the purpose of receiving and
 3-33 recuperating from that remedial treatment;

3-34 (4) is expelled in accordance with the requirements of
 3-35 law in a school district that does not participate in a mandatory
 3-36 juvenile justice alternative education program under Section
 3-37 37.011;

3-38 (5) is at least 17 years of age and:

3-39 (A) is attending a course of instruction to
 3-40 prepare for the high school equivalency examination, and:

3-41 (i) has the permission of the child's parent
 3-42 or guardian to attend the course;

3-43 (ii) is required by court order to attend
 3-44 the course;

3-45 (iii) has established a residence separate
 3-46 and apart from the child's parent, guardian, or other person having
 3-47 lawful control of the child; or

3-48 (iv) is homeless as defined by 42 U.S.C.
 3-49 Section 11302; or

3-50 (B) has received a high school diploma or high
 3-51 school equivalency certificate;

3-52 (6) is at least 16 years of age and is attending a
 3-53 course of instruction to prepare for the high school equivalency
 3-54 examination, if:

3-55 (A) the child is recommended to take the course
 3-56 of instruction by a public agency that has supervision or custody of
 3-57 the child under a court order; or

3-58 (B) the child is enrolled in a Job Corps training
 3-59 program under ~~[the Job Training Partnership Act (]29 U.S.C. Section~~
 3-60 ~~2881 [1501] et seq. [), and its subsequent amendments];~~

3-61 (7) is enrolled in the Texas Academy of Mathematics
 3-62 and Science;

3-63 (8) is enrolled in the Texas Academy of Leadership in
 3-64 the Humanities; ~~[or]~~

3-65 (9) is enrolled in the Texas Academy of International
 3-66 Studies; or

3-67 (10) is specifically exempted under another law.

3-68 SECTION 3. Section 28.024, Education Code, is amended to
 3-69 read as follows:

4-1 Sec. 28.024. CREDIT FOR ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN ACADEMIES. A
4-2 school district shall grant to a student credit toward the academic
4-3 course requirements for high school graduation, up to a maximum of
4-4 two years of credit, for courses the student successfully completes
4-5 at:

4-6 (1) the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities
4-7 under Section 96.707 [~~Subchapter E, Chapter 108~~]; [~~or~~]

4-8 (2) the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science under
4-9 Subchapter G [~~H~~], Chapter 105; or

4-10 (3) the Texas Academy of International Studies under
4-11 Section 87.505.

4-12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4-13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4-14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4-15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4-16 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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