

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 608

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 55.1745 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.1745. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL REVENUE BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of the University of North Texas System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property, buildings, structures, or other facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, to be financed by the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, including bonds issued in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program and secured as provided by that program, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$42.1 million.

(b) The board of regents may pledge irrevocably to the payment of the bonds authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of the University of North Texas or the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those bonds, are

1 outstanding.

2 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board of
3 regents to meet its obligations under this section, the board may
4 transfer funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the
5 University of North Texas System to ensure the most equitable and
6 efficient allocation of available resources for each institution,
7 branch, or entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

8 SECTION 2. Subsection (e), Section 61.0572, Education Code,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 (e) Approval of the board is not required to acquire real
11 property that is financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)
12 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.1735(a)(1), 55.174,
13 55.1742, 55.1743, ~~55.1744~~, or 55.1745, except that the board
14 shall review all real property to be financed by bonds issued under
15 those sections to determine whether the property meets the
16 standards adopted by the board for cost, efficiency, and space use.
17 If the property does not meet those standards, the board shall
18 notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
19 house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

20 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 61.058, Education Code,
21 is amended to read as follows:

22 (b) This section does not apply to construction, repair, or
23 rehabilitation financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)
24 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.174, 55.1742,
25 55.1743, ~~55.1744~~, or 55.1745, except that the board shall
26 review all construction, repair, or rehabilitation to be financed
27 by bonds issued under those sections to determine whether the

1 construction, rehabilitation, or repair meets the standards
2 adopted by board rule for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the
3 construction, rehabilitation, or repair does not meet those
4 standards, the board shall notify the governor, the lieutenant
5 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
6 Legislative Budget Board.

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