

By: Duncan

S.B. No. 1696

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot project to provide additional capacity for higher education undergraduate education.

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

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

Sec. 56.3076. Pilot Project to provide additional capacity for higher education undergraduate education.

(a) To the extent existing facilities, administrative infrastructure and faculty can address growing higher education undergraduate enrollment, and in order to mitigate the need for additional construction and the hiring of additional faculty, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall award grants in keeping with this Subchapter in an amount equal to the grant award under Section 56.307 to a student who:

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

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

(b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall award initial awards under this Subchapter to up to 1,000 students at Angelo State University and 600 students at Sul Ross State University for the academic year 2006-07 and shall award

1 continuation awards to pilot project students in future years in  
2 accordance with Section 56.305.

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

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

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

17 SECTION 2. (a) Section 1 of this Act applies beginning  
18 with the 2006-2007 academic year.

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

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the votes necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.