

1-1 By: Hilderbran (Senate Sponsor - Fraser) H.B. No. 1700
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2007;
1-3 May 2, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Education; May 10, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 10, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to a project for the development and implementation of a
1-9 nature science curriculum for public school students.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
1-12 amended by adding Section 28.013 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 28.013. NATURE SCIENCE CURRICULUM PROJECT. (a) The
1-14 State Board of Education shall assist in developing a nature
1-15 science curriculum, in accordance with this section, the following
1-16 entities, acting jointly:

1-17 (1) the Outdoor School at Texas Tech University Center
1-18 at Junction;

1-19 (2) the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and
1-20 Math (T-STEM) Center of Texas Tech University; and

1-21 (3) South Llano River State Park.

1-22 (b) The nature science curriculum must:

1-23 (1) be designed for instruction of students in grades
1-24 six through 12;

1-25 (2) provide for grade-level appropriate instruction
1-26 in essential knowledge and skills identified by the State Board of
1-27 Education under Section 28.002 for:

1-28 (A) science; and

1-29 (B) mathematics, social studies, and language
1-30 arts, to the extent practicable and relevant to nature science
1-31 studies;

1-32 (3) through participation in outdoor experiential
1-33 learning projects in state parks, provide for the scientific study
1-34 by students of:

1-35 (A) conservation, wildlife or aquatic biology,
1-36 range ecology, or other areas of nature science; and

1-37 (B) problems affecting nature, such as threats to
1-38 the watershed, and possible solutions to those problems; and

1-39 (4) be designed to:

1-40 (A) be capable of implementation in any state
1-41 park;

1-42 (B) use state park resources in providing
1-43 instruction; and

1-44 (C) be presented by classroom teachers and state
1-45 park employees.

1-46 (c) The Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
1-47 (T-STEM) Center of Texas Tech University shall make the nature
1-48 science curriculum available through the university's Internet
1-49 website or through a separate Internet website developed by the
1-50 center for that purpose.

1-51 (d) The Texas Tech University Center at Junction, with
1-52 assistance from South Llano River State Park, shall present to
1-53 classroom teachers and state park employees staff development
1-54 courses in providing instruction in the nature science curriculum.

1-55 (e) The nature science curriculum project must be
1-56 implemented and maintained using money appropriated for those
1-57 purposes.

1-58 SECTION 2. The Texas Tech University Center at Junction,
1-59 with assistance from South Llano River State Park, shall present
1-60 staff development courses as required by Section 28.013, Education
1-61 Code, as added by this Act, beginning September 1, 2008.

1-62 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-63 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-64 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

2-1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-2 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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