

1-1 By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2235
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 International Relations and Trade; May 16, 2007, reported
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 16, 2007, sent
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to the creation of a technology center grant program for
1-10 rural counties.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Chapter 487, Government Code, is amended by
1-13 adding Subchapter P to read as follows:

1-14 SUBCHAPTER P. RURAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER GRANT PROGRAM

1-15 Sec. 487.701. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "rural
1-16 county" means a county that has a population of not more than
1-17 125,000.

1-18 Sec. 487.702. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) Subject to available
1-19 funds, the office shall establish a grant program under which the
1-20 office awards grants to public institutions of higher education,
1-21 public high schools, and governmental entities located in a rural
1-22 county for the development and operation of multi-institutional
1-23 technology centers that provide:

1-24 (1) community access to technology;

1-25 (2) computer literacy programs;

1-26 (3) educational programs designed to provide
1-27 concurrent enrollment credit for high school students taking
1-28 postsecondary courses in information and emerging technologies;

1-29 (4) training for careers in technology-related fields
1-30 and other highly skilled industries; and

1-31 (5) technology-related continuing and adult education
1-32 programs.

1-33 (b) The executive committee by rule shall establish:

1-34 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

1-35 (2) grant application procedures;

1-36 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

1-37 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and

1-38 (5) procedures for monitoring the use of grants
1-39 awarded under the program and for ensuring compliance with the
1-40 conditions of a grant.

1-41 Sec. 487.703. FUNDING. The office may seek, receive, and
1-42 spend money received through an appropriation, grant, donation, or
1-43 reimbursement from any public or private source to implement this
1-44 subchapter.

1-45 SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2007, the Office of
1-46 Rural Community Affairs shall establish the rural technology center
1-47 grant program required by Subchapter P, Chapter 487, Government
1-48 Code, as added by this Act, and shall award the first grants under
1-49 that program not later than January 1, 2008.

1-50 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-51 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-52 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-53 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-54 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

1-55 * * * * *