

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board concerning the effectiveness of joint partnerships between institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0661 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0661. STUDY OF JOINT PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (a) The board may conduct a study to determine whether institutions of higher education, including component institutions of different university systems, may effectively enter into joint partnership agreements to:

(1) develop joint degree programs and joint research programs;

(2) make joint appointments of faculty or other personnel to the partnership and to either or both institutions; and

(3) maintain joint facilities for purposes of conducting joint programs described by Subdivision (1).

(b) If the board conducts a study under Subsection (a), the board shall report to the legislature concerning the results of the study not later than January 1, 2009. The report must include the board's recommendations for implementing effective joint partnerships between institutions of higher education.

1           (c) The board may take action under this section only to the  
2 extent existing resources are available for that purpose.

3           (d) This section expires June 1, 2009.

4           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 649 passed the Senate on April 19, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 649 passed the House, with amendment, on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor