

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1055

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to establishing a commission to study and report on the  
3 projected need for faculty at public and private institutions of  
4 higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 51.4022 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.4022. COMMISSION TO STUDY AND REPORT ON PROJECTED  
9 NEED FOR FACULTY. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "General academic teaching institution" has the  
11 meaning assigned by Section 61.003, except the term does not  
12 include a public state college.

13 (2) "Medical and dental unit," "private or independent  
14 institution of higher education," "public junior college," and  
15 "public state college" have the meanings assigned by Section  
16 61.003.

17 (b) A commission is established to conduct a study of the  
18 need for faculty at public and private institutions of higher  
19 education in this state as projected through the end of the  
20 2026-2027 academic year.

21 (c) The commission shall be composed of nine members as  
22 follows:

23 (1) a representative of each of the following  
24 entities, appointed by the commissioner of higher education not

1 later than October 1, 2007:

2 (A) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating  
3 Board;

4 (B) a general academic teaching institution;

5 (C) a medical and dental unit;

6 (D) a private or independent institution of  
7 higher education; and

8 (E) a public junior college;

9 (2) three other persons as follows with expertise  
10 concerning higher education in this state, appointed not later than  
11 October 1, 2007:

12 (A) one member appointed by the governor;

13 (B) one member appointed by the lieutenant  
14 governor; and

15 (C) one member appointed by the speaker of the  
16 house of representatives; and

17 (3) the state demographer.

18 (d) The commission may request assistance and information,  
19 other than confidential information relating to an identifiable  
20 individual, from any public institution of higher education or  
21 other state agency. An institution or other agency shall provide  
22 the assistance and information requested to the extent practicable.

23 (e) The expenses of the commission shall be paid in equal  
24 amounts from the contingent expense accounts of the senate and  
25 house of representatives, or as otherwise agreed to by the  
26 lieutenant governor and speaker of the house. Members of the  
27 commission serve without compensation, but are entitled to

1 reimbursement for expenses incurred in carrying out the  
2 commission's duties.

3 (f) The commission shall study:

4 (1) the number of new faculty members needed to  
5 achieve the goals of "Closing the Gaps," the state's master plan for  
6 higher education, and the academic disciplines in which the new  
7 faculty members are needed;

8 (2) the number of qualified persons available to serve  
9 as faculty members in this state and throughout the nation and the  
10 demand for the services of those persons in this state and  
11 throughout the nation;

12 (3) the effects of faculty retirements at public and  
13 private institutions of higher education in this state and  
14 throughout the nation on the number of qualified persons available  
15 to serve as faculty members;

16 (4) the academic disciplines likely to have the  
17 greatest need for new faculty, as determined from:

18 (A) faculty supply and demand; and

19 (B) the potential of faculty members in  
20 particular academic disciplines, such as health care, to contribute  
21 to this state's competitiveness and the general welfare of the  
22 state's residents;

23 (5) the capacity of public and private institutions of  
24 higher education in this state to prepare persons who are qualified  
25 to serve as faculty members at institutions in this state and across  
26 a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, with emphasis on the  
27 disciplines identified under Subdivision (4);

1           (6) methods to increase the capacity to meet the need  
2 for new faculty; and

3           (7) any other matter the commission determines may  
4 affect the state's need for new faculty at public and private  
5 institutions of higher education or may contribute to meeting that  
6 need.

7           (g) The commission shall prepare a report based on the study  
8 required by this section. The commission shall submit the report to  
9 the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house,  
10 and the coordinating board not later than September 1, 2008.

11           (h) This section expires January 1, 2009.

12           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.