

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 1377

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to studies and determinations by the Texas Higher  
3 Education Coordinating Board regarding funding to accomplish the  
4 goals of the state master plan for public higher education "Closing  
5 the Gaps."

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
8 amended by adding Section 61.0593 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 61.0593. DETERMINATIONS REGARDING REQUIRED FUNDING  
10 FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF "CLOSING THE GAPS." (a) In each  
11 even-numbered year during the period covered by the state master  
12 plan for higher education "Closing the Gaps," as then revised, the  
13 board shall study and determine the additional amount of money  
14 needed for the next state fiscal biennium from each of the sources  
15 described by Subsection (b) that, in combination with the amount of  
16 money that would otherwise be required to adequately fund public  
17 higher education in this state, would provide sufficient funding to  
18 accomplish in a timely manner each of the following purposes in that  
19 biennium in relation to the goals of the master plan:

20 (1) acquiring, constructing, and improving  
21 instructional and support facilities;

22 (2) acquiring instructional equipment and supplies,  
23 including laboratory equipment;

24 (3) paying costs of instruction, including salaries

1 and benefits for faculty;

2 (4) providing for general administration at  
3 institutions of higher education, including salaries and benefits  
4 to administrative and other staff;

5 (5) providing student financial aid;

6 (6) recruiting and retaining students and faculty;

7 (7) providing tutoring or other academic support to  
8 students;

9 (8) obtaining and administering federal and private  
10 research and development grants and projects; and

11 (9) any other purpose the board considers appropriate.

12 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a), the board shall  
13 determine the amount of money that would be required to be  
14 contributed during the next state fiscal biennium from the  
15 following sources:

16 (1) state revenue, from any available source;

17 (2) revenue from tuition and fees;

18 (3) federal funding revenue, from any available  
19 source; and

20 (4) any other sources, including private sources,  
21 determined appropriate by the board.

22 (c) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year  
23 during the period covered by the revised "Closing the Gaps" plan,  
24 the board shall submit to the chair of each legislative standing  
25 committee or subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher  
26 education or state appropriations a report stating the  
27 determinations made under this section for the next state fiscal

1 biennium.

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