

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 91

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment by The University of Texas System of a
3 law school in the Rio Grande Valley.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 75, Education Code, is amended by adding
6 Subchapter D to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER D. RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF LAW

8 Sec. 75.251. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "board" means
9 the board of regents of The University of Texas System.

10 Sec. 75.252. RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF LAW. (a) The
11 board may establish and operate as a professional school of The
12 University of Texas System a school of law in Cameron County or
13 Hidalgo County as the board considers appropriate.

14 (b) In administering the law school, the board may prescribe
15 courses leading to customary degrees offered at other leading
16 American schools of law and may award those degrees.

17 (c) Before the board establishes a law school under this
18 section, but not later than June 1, 2010, the Texas Higher Education
19 Coordinating Board shall prepare a feasibility study to determine
20 the actions the system must take to obtain accreditation of the law
21 school. The coordinating board shall deliver a copy of the study to
22 the chair of each legislative standing committee or subcommittee
23 with jurisdiction over higher education.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.