

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 1584

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study regarding the establishment and administration of a legislative youth advisory council in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 67, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 67.04 to read as follows:

Sec. 67.04. STUDY REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL. (a) In this section:

(1) "School" means The University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

(2) "Youth council" means a legislative youth advisory council.

(b) The University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs shall conduct a study regarding the establishment and administration of a legislative youth advisory council in this state for the purpose of:

(1) engaging young Texans in:

(A) identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing policy issues affecting youth, including policy issues relating to education, employment, substance abuse and underage drinking, physical and emotional health, poverty, safety, the environment, driver's licenses, and strategies to increase youth participation in local and state government and youth access to local and state

1 governmental services; and

2 (B) developing recommendations for legislation  
3 to address policy issues affecting youth; and

4 (2) facilitating communication between young Texans  
5 and members of the legislature regarding policy issues and proposed  
6 legislation affecting youth.

7 (c) As a part of its study, the school shall:

8 (1) examine the composition, terms of office,  
9 membership eligibility requirements, membership application and  
10 selection process, activities, and administration of councils or  
11 other entities established by other states for similar purposes to  
12 determine whether any of those entities is an appropriate model for  
13 a youth council in this state;

14 (2) develop an estimate of the expenses that would be  
15 associated with establishing and administering a youth council in  
16 this state;

17 (3) identify potential funding sources for the  
18 expenses described by Subdivision (2);

19 (4) develop recommendations for:

20 (A) the composition, terms of office, membership  
21 eligibility requirements, membership application and selection  
22 process, activities, and administration of a youth council in this  
23 state; and

24 (B) the governmental or other entity or entities  
25 that are best positioned to support and administer a youth council  
26 in this state; and

27 (5) consider any other issues the school considers

1 appropriate regarding the establishment and administration of a  
2 youth council in this state.

3 (d) In developing its recommendations for the composition  
4 of a youth council, the school shall consider the feasibility of  
5 establishing a youth council that:

6 (1) reflects the diversity of youth across this state;  
7 and

8 (2) is composed of:

9 (A) a specific number of youth members from each  
10 state senate district; and

11 (B) nonvoting advisory members who are members of  
12 the Texas Legislature or those members' designees.

13 (e) The comptroller and the Legislative Budget Board shall  
14 assist the school in developing cost estimates for implementing the  
15 school's recommendations for the establishment and administration  
16 of a youth council in this state.

17 (f) Not later than October 1, 2010, the school shall submit  
18 to the legislature a written report detailing the school's findings  
19 and recommendations regarding the establishment and administration  
20 of a youth council in this state. The report must include the cost  
21 estimates for implementing the school's recommendations developed  
22 under Subsection (e).

23 (g) This section expires September 1, 2011.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.