

By: Driver

H.B. No. 1781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Forensic Science Academy as a program of the Texas Engineering Extension Service of The Texas A&M University System.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 88, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY

Sec. 88.821. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "academy" means the Texas Forensic Science Academy.

Sec. 88.822. ESTABLISHMENT OF ACADEMY. The Texas Forensic Science Academy is established as a law enforcement extension training program of the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Sec. 88.823. PURPOSES OF ACADEMY. The purposes of the academy are to:

(1) support the need for trained state and local law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, public defenders, and judges in the criminal justice system of this state; and

(2) achieve accuracy and equity in the criminal justice system of this state.

Sec. 88.824. DUTIES OF ACADEMY. (a) The academy shall provide, through extension courses, online courses, workshops, seminars, and other appropriate means, comprehensive and technical training and education focused on science-based best practices for

1 proper crime scene investigation and for the collection and
2 preservation of forensic evidence and the presentation of that
3 evidence in court.

4 (b) The academy shall consult with state and local law
5 enforcement agencies, prosecutors, public defenders, and judges in
6 this state as necessary to ensure that the curriculum and practices
7 of the academy are consistent with the needs of the criminal justice
8 system of this state.

9 Sec. 88.825. PERSONNEL. The Texas Engineering Extension
10 Service may employ a director and other personnel necessary to
11 administer this subchapter.

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, 2009.