

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 2887

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a literacy center pilot program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0621 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0621. LITERACY CENTER PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The board shall establish a pilot program to establish a literacy center as a model for institutions of higher education. To implement and administer the program, the board shall choose a public junior college campus that:

(1) is located in a county with a population of at least 300,000 and has a high need for literacy services;

(2) is considered to be a center for intellectual activity in the region of the state in which the junior college district that operates the campus is located; and

(3) has an established reading committee on the campus that has participated in literacy and reading projects with other entities in the community.

(b) The literacy center pilot program shall:

(1) emphasize advanced literacy, enhance reading skills, and encourage voluntary reading;

(2) imbed reading throughout the curriculum;

(3) provide training to faculty concerning the

1 purposes of the program;

2 (4) have a primary focus on students of the
3 institution of higher education;

4 (5) provide outreach to local schools and the
5 community; and

6 (6) incorporate and coordinate with other national
7 efforts and programs in literacy, which may include those that
8 focus on science, health and wellness, civics, business and
9 finance, technology, sustainability and the environment,
10 philosophy, ethics, religion, and literature and the arts.

11 (c) The public junior college campus chosen by the board
12 shall cooperate with community libraries, local school districts,
13 and other local entities to implement and administer the program.

14 (d) The board shall allocate funds appropriated for
15 purposes of this section to support the pilot program.

16 (e) Not later than January 1, 2011, the governing board of
17 the junior college district that operates the campus selected to
18 administer the literacy center pilot program shall report to the
19 chairs of the standing committees of each house of the legislature
20 with jurisdiction over education. The report must include
21 information regarding the progress made in improving the literacy
22 of students on the campus that participated in the program and in
23 the community, and include recommendations for establishing
24 similar programs at other institutions of higher education.

25 (f) This section expires September 1, 2011.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.