

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 44

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the participation of undergraduate students in funding
3 awarded under the advanced research program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 142.002, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 142.002. PURPOSE. The advanced research program is
8 established to encourage and provide support for basic research
9 conducted by faculty members and students in astronomy, atmospheric
10 science, biological and behavioral sciences, chemistry, computer
11 sciences, earth sciences, engineering, information science,
12 mathematics, material sciences, oceanography, physics,
13 environmental issues affecting the Texas-Mexico border region, the
14 reduction of industrial, agricultural, and domestic water use,
15 social sciences, and related disciplines in eligible institutions.

16 SECTION 2. Section 142.003, Education Code, is amended by
17 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

18 (d) For each program year, the advisory committee shall
19 recommend to the coordinating board a percentage of available
20 program money to be used to fund projects in which undergraduate
21 students conduct or have a substantial role in conducting the
22 research. Not later than August 31 of each year, the coordinating
23 board shall determine the applicable amount of set-aside for the
24 program year and shall publish that amount on the board's website.

1 Money set aside under this subsection that, due to a lack of
2 qualified proposals, is not awarded as prescribed by this
3 subsection during the program year may be used to fund other
4 projects in the same program year or in a subsequent program year in
5 the same fiscal biennium.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.