

1-1 By: West, Shapiro S.B. No. 956  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 19, 2009; February 23, 2009,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;  
1-4 April 7, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 7, 2009,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 956 By: West

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the establishment of a law school in the city of Dallas  
1-11 by the University of North Texas System.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 105.001, Education Code, is amended to  
1-14 read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 105.001. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM. The  
1-16 University of North Texas System is composed of:

1-17 (1) the University of North Texas;

1-18 (2) the University of North Texas Health Science  
1-19 Center at Fort Worth; ~~and~~

1-20 (3) the University of North Texas at Dallas; and

1-21 (4) the University of North Texas College of Law.

1-22 SECTION 2. Section 105.151, Education Code, is amended by  
1-23 adding Subsection (c-1) and amending Subsection (d) to read as  
1-24 follows:

1-25 (c-1) Venue for a suit filed solely against the University  
1-26 of North Texas College of Law or against officers or employees of  
1-27 the University of North Texas College of Law is in Dallas County.

1-28 (d) In case of a conflict between Subsection (a), (b), ~~or~~  
1-29 (c), or (c-1) and any other law, Subsection (a), (b), ~~or~~ (c), or  
1-30 (c-1) controls.

1-31 SECTION 3. Subchapter J, Chapter 105, Education Code, is  
1-32 amended by adding Section 105.502 to read as follows:

1-33 Sec. 105.502. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM COLLEGE OF  
1-34 LAW. (a) The board may establish and operate a school of law in  
1-35 the city of Dallas as a professional school of the University of  
1-36 North Texas System.

1-37 (b) In administering the law school, the board may prescribe  
1-38 courses leading to customary degrees offered at other leading  
1-39 American schools of law and may award those degrees.

1-40 (c) Until the University of North Texas at Dallas has been  
1-41 administered as a general academic teaching institution for five  
1-42 years, the board shall administer the law school as a professional  
1-43 school of the system. After that period, the law school shall  
1-44 become a professional school of the University of North Texas at  
1-45 Dallas. Until the law school becomes a professional school of the  
1-46 University of North Texas at Dallas, the law school:

1-47 (1) is considered an institution of higher education  
1-48 under Section 61.003 for all purposes under other law; and

1-49 (2) is entitled to formula funding as if the law school  
1-50 were a professional school of a general academic teaching  
1-51 institution.

1-52 (d) Before the board establishes a law school under this  
1-53 section, but not later than June 1, 2010, the Texas Higher Education  
1-54 Coordinating Board shall prepare a feasibility study to determine  
1-55 the actions the system must take to obtain accreditation of the law  
1-56 school. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
1-57 deliver a copy of the study to the chair of each legislative  
1-58 standing committee or subcommittee with jurisdiction over higher  
1-59 education.

1-60 (e) The board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and  
1-61 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this  
1-62 section.

1-63 SECTION 4. If this Act receives a vote of at least

2-1 two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature, the  
2-2 University of North Texas College of Law created under Section  
2-3 105.502, Education Code, as added by this Act, is entitled to  
2-4 participate in the funding provided by Section 17, Article VII,  
2-5 Texas Constitution.

2-6 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-10 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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