

Suspending limitations on conference committee  
jurisdiction, H.B. No. 51

By: Zaffirini

S.R. No. 1073

SENATE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, That Senate Rule 12.03 be suspended in part as provided by Senate Rule 12.08 to enable the conference committee appointed to resolve the differences on House Bill No. 51 (measures to enhance and maintain the quality of state universities, including funding and incentives to support emerging public research universities, to the abolition of the higher education fund, to the institutional groupings under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's accountability system, to the independent status of Lamar Institute of Technology, to research conducted by public universities and other state entities, and to the authorization of revenue bonds for certain institutions of higher education) to consider and take action on the following matter:

Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to add the following new SECTIONS to the bill:

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 55.1771 and 55.17721 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.1771. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter and subject to the other provisions of this section, the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property, buildings, structures, facilities, roads, or related

infrastructure for Texas A&M University at Galveston for an erosion control breakwater, a dock, or any other related purpose reasonably necessary to assist the institution to recover from any damage or other impact caused by Hurricane Ike, to be financed by the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, including bonds issued in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program and secured as provided by that program, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5 million.

(b) The board of regents may pledge irrevocably to the payment of the bonds authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of an institution, branch, or entity of The Texas A&M University System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

(c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board of regents to meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer funds among institutions, branches, and entities of The Texas A&M University System to ensure the most equitable and efficient allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

Sec. 55.17721. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter and subject to the other provisions of this

section, the board of regents of The University of Texas System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property, buildings, structures, facilities, roads, or related infrastructure for The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for any purpose reasonably necessary to assist the institution to recover from any damage or other impact caused by Hurricane Ike, to be financed by the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, including bonds issued in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program and secured as provided by that program, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$150 million.

(b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of the bonds authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of an institution, branch, or entity of The University of Texas System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

(c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer funds among institutions, branches, and entities of The University of Texas System to ensure the most equitable and efficient allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

(d) Any transfer of funds to the board pursuant to an

appropriation of state funds to the board or The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for the purpose of reimbursing the board for all or part of the debt service on bonds issued under this section is subject to the prior approval of the Legislative Budget Board. In determining whether to approve a transfer of state funds for that purpose, the Legislative Budget Board shall consider:

(1) whether the commissioners court of the county in which the medical branch is located has entered into an agreement with the board under which the county agrees to reimburse the board for all or part of any otherwise unreimbursed costs incurred by the medical branch to provide health care services to individuals who are residents of the county and whose net family income is not more than 100 percent of the federal poverty level;  
or

(2) whether the county in which the medical branch is located or a hospital district that includes that county imposes an ad valorem tax for health care purposes.

(e) For purposes of Subsection (d), the county of residence of an individual is determined in the same manner as provided by Chapter 61, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 3. Section 61.0572(e), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Approval of the board is not required to acquire real property that is financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3) or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728,

55.1735(a)(1), 55.174, 55.1742, 55.1743, 55.1744, 55.1751-55.17592, [~~or~~] 55.1768, 55.1771, or 55.17721, except that the board shall review all real property to be financed by bonds issued under those sections to determine whether the property meets the standards adopted by the board for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the property does not meet those standards, the board shall notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

SECTION 4. Section 61.058(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) This section does not apply to construction, repair, or rehabilitation financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3) or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.174, 55.1742, 55.1743, 55.1744, 55.1751-55.17592, [~~or~~] 55.1768, 55.1771, or 55.17721, except that the board shall review all construction, repair, or rehabilitation to be financed by bonds issued under those sections to determine whether the construction, rehabilitation, or repair meets the standards adopted by board rule for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the construction, rehabilitation, or repair does not meet those standards, the board shall notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

Explanation: This addition is necessary to enable the governing boards of Texas A&M University at Galveston and The

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University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston to issue tuition revenue bonds to finance capital improvements at those institutions that are reasonably necessary to assist the institutions in recovering from any damage or other impact caused by Hurricane Ike.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 31, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate