

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 50

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment by The University of Texas System of a law school in the Rio Grande Valley.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 75, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF LAW

Sec. 75.251. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "board" means the board of regents of The University of Texas System.

Sec. 75.252. RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF LAW. (a) The board may establish and operate as a professional school of The University of Texas System a school of law in Cameron County or Hidalgo County as the board considers appropriate.

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

(c) Before the board establishes a law school under this section, the board shall request the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to prepare a feasibility study to determine the actions the system must take to obtain accreditation of the law school. The coordinating board shall deliver a copy of the study to the board and to the chair of each legislative standing committee or subcommittee with jurisdiction over higher education.

SECTION 2. No funds for a state fiscal biennium ending on or

1 before August 31, 2017, may be appropriated for the purposes of
2 Subchapter D, Chapter 75, Education Code, as added by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.