

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 53

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a public law school in the Rio Grande Valley.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0905 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0905. RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF LAW. (a) The governing board of a university system may establish and operate as a professional school of the system a school of law in Cameron County or Hidalgo County as the governing board considers appropriate.

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

(c) The governing board may assign responsibility for the management of the law school to a general academic teaching institution in the university system.

(d) The governing board of a university system that intends to establish a law school under this section shall notify the coordinating board. If the coordinating board receives notification under this subsection from more than one governing board, the coordinating board shall, based on the need for a law school in a geographic area, potential student demand, available system resources, the feasibility of the specific proposal of each

1 system, and other appropriate criteria, determine which of those
2 governing boards may establish a law school under this section.

3 (e) Before the governing board establishes a law school
4 under this section, the governing board shall request the
5 coordinating board to prepare a feasibility study to determine the
6 actions the system must take to obtain accreditation of the law
7 school. The coordinating board shall deliver a copy of the study to
8 the governing board and to the chair of each legislative standing
9 committee with jurisdiction over higher education.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.