

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 272

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund  
3 capital projects at public institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Sections 55.1781, 55.1782, 55.1783, 55.1784,  
7 55.1785, 55.1786, 55.1787, 55.1788, 55.1789, 55.17891, and  
8 55.17892 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 55.1781. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
10 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
11 subchapter, the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System  
12 may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or  
13 equip facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for  
14 projects to be financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance  
15 with this subchapter and in accordance with a systemwide revenue  
16 financing program adopted by the board for the following  
17 institutions and facilities not to exceed the following aggregate  
18 principal amounts for the projects specified as follows:

19 (1) Tarleton State University, \$27,150,000 for  
20 instructional and student success space renovation;

21 (2) Texas A&M University--Commerce, \$45,900,000 for  
22 renovation of the University Library and a distance education  
23 technology center;

24 (3) Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, \$75 million

1 for a life sciences building;

2 (4) Texas A&M University--Kingsville, \$40 million for  
3 a music building expansion and renovation and acoustical  
4 modifications to Jones Auditorium;

5 (5) Texas A&M University--Texarkana, \$46 million for  
6 nursing, allied health sciences, and College of Business classroom  
7 facilities;

8 (6) West Texas A&M University, \$20 million for  
9 academic facility expansion, renovation, and construction;

10 (7) The Texas A&M University System Health Science  
11 Center, \$55 million for a medical education and research building  
12 in Bryan, Texas;

13 (8) Prairie View A&M University, \$17,559,310 for a  
14 multipurpose classroom and laboratory building;

15 (9) Texas A&M University, \$115 million for a  
16 veterinary medicine and biomedical sciences education building;

17 (10) Texas A&M University at Galveston, \$45 million  
18 for the rehabilitation and expansion of infrastructure and the  
19 central plant;

20 (11) Texas A&M International University, \$50 million  
21 for library expansion for additional instructional spaces and  
22 construction of a support services building;

23 (12) Texas A&M University--Central Texas, \$60 million  
24 for a library/multipurpose building; and

25 (13) Texas A&M University--San Antonio, \$45 million  
26 for an academic classroom and library building.

27 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds

1 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of  
2 an institution, branch, or entity of The Texas A&M University  
3 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge  
4 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the  
5 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those  
6 bonds, are outstanding.

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

13 Sec. 55.1782. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
14 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
15 subchapter, the board of regents of The University of Texas System  
16 may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or  
17 equip facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for  
18 projects to be financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance  
19 with this subchapter and in accordance with a systemwide revenue  
20 financing program adopted by the board for the following  
21 institutions not to exceed the following aggregate principal  
22 amounts for the projects specified as follows:

23 (1) The University of Texas at Arlington, \$74,800,000  
24 for a life science building;

25 (2) The University of Texas at Austin, \$100 million  
26 for an engineering education and research center;

27 (3) The University of Texas at Brownsville, \$63

1 million for a student success center;

2 (4) The University of Texas at Dallas, \$76,500,000 for  
3 a bioengineering and science building;

4 (5) The University of Texas at El Paso, \$90 million for  
5 an interdisciplinary research facility (Barry/Burges Hall  
6 replacement);

7 (6) The University of Texas--Pan American:

8 (A) \$48,368,000 for the Science Building II; and

9 (B) \$46 million for College of Business  
10 renovation and expansion;

11 (7) The University of Texas of the Permian Basin:

12 (A) \$53,500,000 for the construction of a College  
13 of Engineering building; and

14 (B) \$18 million for campus renovation and repair;

15 (8) The University of Texas at San Antonio,  
16 \$92,750,000 for an experimental science instructional building;

17 (9) The University of Texas at Tyler, \$46 million for a  
18 technology and life sciences building;

19 (10) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
20 Center at Dallas, \$52 million for south campus building renovation  
21 and repair;

22 (11) The University of Texas Health Science Center at  
23 Houston, \$54 million for the renovation and modernization of  
24 educational and research facilities;

25 (12) The University of Texas Health Science Center at  
26 San Antonio:

27 (A) \$6 million for a South Texas diabetes

1 institute; and

2 (B) \$55 million for an academic learning and  
3 teaching center building;

4 (13) The University of Texas Health Science Center at  
5 Tyler, \$27,792,000 for Phase II of the Academic Center; and

6 (14) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer  
7 Center, \$50 million for a Basic Science Research Building II.

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

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

21 Sec. 55.1783. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
22 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
23 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston  
24 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
25 enlarge, or equip facilities, including roads and related  
26 infrastructure, for the following institutions, to be financed  
27 through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter

1 and in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program  
2 adopted by the board, in aggregate principal amounts not to exceed  
3 the following:

4 (1) the University of Houston:

5 (A) \$89,500,000 for a nanotechnology science and  
6 engineering research building;

7 (B) \$47,300,000 for a new pharmacy building; and

8 (C) \$65 million for central plant renewal and  
9 utility infrastructure deferred maintenance;

10 (2) the University of Houston--Clear Lake,  
11 \$68,600,000 for a science and academic support building;

12 (3) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$41,429,000  
13 for a science and technology building; and

14 (4) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$61,500,000  
15 for an academic/office/laboratory facility.

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

23 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to  
24 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer  
25 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the University  
26 of Houston System to ensure the most equitable and efficient  
27 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or

1 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

2 Sec. 55.1784. TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
3 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
4 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas State University  
5 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
6 enlarge, or equip facilities, including roads and related  
7 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of  
8 bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a  
9 systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board for the  
10 following institutions not to exceed the following aggregate  
11 principal amounts for the projects specified as follows:

12 (1) Lamar University, \$25 million for the construction  
13 of a new science building;

14 (2) Lamar State College--Orange, \$6,410,000 for a  
15 workforce training center;

16 (3) Lamar State College--Port Arthur, \$2 million for  
17 an addition to the allied health building;

18 (4) Lamar Institute of Technology:

19 (A) \$12 million for a student services and  
20 learning support center; and

21 (B) \$12 million for the renovation/replacement  
22 of the technical arts buildings;

23 (5) Texas State University--San Marcos:

24 (A) \$48,820,000 for the construction of the  
25 RRHEC-Health Professions Building #1;

26 (B) \$31,900,000 for the construction of the  
27 RRHEC-Health Professions Building #2;

1                    (C) \$56,705,000 for the construction of a music  
2 building; and

3                    (D) \$70 million for the construction of a new  
4 engineering and science building;

5                    (6) Sam Houston State University:

6                    (A) \$39,650,000 for a biology, nursing, and  
7 allied health building;

8                    (B) \$19,575,000 for a forensic science building;  
9 and

10                   (C) \$24,881,000 for construction of an  
11 agriculture complex and academic building; and

12                   (7) Sul Ross State University, \$7,500,000 for the  
13 campus boiler and other related infrastructure replacement.

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

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

27                   Sec. 55.1785. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL



1 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
2 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of North Texas  
3 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
4 enlarge, or equip facilities, including roads and related  
5 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of  
6 bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a  
7 systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board for the  
8 following institutions and facilities not to exceed the following  
9 aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified as follows:

10 (1) the University of North Texas System, \$46 million  
11 for college of law building renovations;

12 (2) the University of North Texas:

13 (A) \$63 million for a College of Visual Arts and  
14 Design building; and

15 (B) \$48 million for a science and technology  
16 research facility;

17 (3) the University of North Texas at Dallas, \$63  
18 million for a library and student success center; and

19 (4) the University of North Texas Health Sciences  
20 Center, \$66,600,000 for an interdisciplinary research building.

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

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

7        Sec. 55.1786. TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY. (a) In addition to  
8 the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of  
9 regents of Texas Woman's University may acquire, purchase,  
10 construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip facilities,  
11 including roads and related infrastructure, for projects to be  
12 financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this  
13 subchapter not to exceed the following aggregate principal amounts  
14 for the projects specified as follows:

15                (1) \$42 million for the demolition of the graduate  
16 research building and construction of a new graduate research  
17 building;

18                (2) \$17,500,000 for Phase II of the old main building  
19 renovation;

20                (3) \$9,500,000 for academic and administrative  
21 support services facilities; and

22                (4) \$5,600,000 for Phase III of infrastructure  
23 upgrades.

24        (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds  
25 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of  
26 Texas Woman's University, including student tuition charges. The  
27 amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or

1 abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds  
2 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

3 Sec. 55.1787. MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL  
4 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
5 subchapter, the board of regents of Midwestern State University may  
6 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip  
7 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for  
8 library, College of Education, and student academic services  
9 facilities at Midwestern State University, to be financed through  
10 the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter not to  
11 exceed the aggregate principal amount of \$58,985,500.

12 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds  
13 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of  
14 Midwestern State University, including student tuition charges.  
15 The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced  
16 or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds  
17 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

18 Sec. 55.1788. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY. (a) In  
19 addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the  
20 board of regents of Stephen F. Austin State University may acquire,  
21 purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip  
22 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a  
23 molecular sciences building at Stephen F. Austin State University,  
24 to be financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this  
25 subchapter not to exceed the aggregate principal amount of \$50  
26 million.

27 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds

1 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of  
2 Stephen F. Austin State University, including student tuition  
3 charges. The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not  
4 be reduced or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is  
5 made, or bonds issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

6 Sec. 55.1789. TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
7 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
8 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas Tech University  
9 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
10 enlarge, or equip facilities, including roads and related  
11 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of  
12 bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a  
13 systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board not to  
14 exceed the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects  
15 specified as follows:

16 (1) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center:

17 (A) \$40,500,000 for Lubbock  
18 education/research/technology facilities;

19 (B) \$58,500,000 for the El Paso Medical Science  
20 Building II;

21 (C) \$27 million for the El Paso Clinical Sciences  
22 Building;

23 (D) \$17,010,000 for the Permian Basin academic  
24 facility; and

25 (E) \$14,850,000 for the Amarillo Panhandle  
26 clinical/hospital simulation center;

27 (2) Texas Tech University:

1           (A) \$81 million for the expansion and renovation  
2 of the College of Engineering; and

3           (B) \$78,975,000 for the Experimental Science  
4 Building II; and

5           (3) Angelo State University, \$14,580,000 for the  
6 College of Nursing and Allied Health.

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

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

20           Sec. 55.17891. TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL  
21 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
22 subchapter, the board of regents of Texas Southern University may  
23 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip  
24 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for the  
25 Robert J. Terry Library at Texas Southern University, to be  
26 financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this  
27 subchapter not to exceed the aggregate principal amount of

1 \$64,518,444.

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

8 Sec. 55.17892. TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM. (a)  
9 In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the  
10 board of regents of the Texas State Technical College System may  
11 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip  
12 property, buildings, structures, facilities, roads, or related  
13 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of  
14 bonds in accordance with this subchapter not to exceed the  
15 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified as  
16 follows:

17 (1) Texas State Technical College--Harlingen, \$5  
18 million for Phase II of the energy/engineering center renovation;

19 (2) Texas State Technical College--West Texas:

20 (A) \$1 million for the energy management system;

21 and

22 (B) \$2 million for a diesel technologies center;

23 (3) Texas State Technical College--Marshall, \$2  
24 million for a transportation technologies center; and

25 (4) Texas State Technical College--Waco, \$5 million  
26 for water system infrastructure replacement.

27 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of those

1 bonds all or any part of the revenue funds of an institution,  
2 branch, or entity of the Texas State Technical College System,  
3 including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge made  
4 under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the  
5 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those  
6 bonds, are outstanding.

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

13 SECTION 2. Section 61.0572(e), Education Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 (e) Approval of the board is not required to acquire real  
16 property that is financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)  
17 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.1735(a)(1), 55.174,  
18 55.1742, 55.1743, 55.1744, 55.1751-55.17592, 55.1768, 55.1771,  
19 [~~or~~] 55.17721, or 55.1781-55.17892, except that the board shall  
20 review all real property to be financed by bonds issued under those  
21 sections to determine whether the property meets the standards  
22 adopted by the board for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the  
23 property does not meet those standards, the board shall notify the  
24 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
25 representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

26 SECTION 3. Section 61.058(b), Education Code, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

1           (b) This section does not apply to construction, repair, or  
2 rehabilitation financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)  
3 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.174, 55.1742,  
4 55.1743, 55.1744, 55.1751-55.17592, 55.1768, 55.1771, [~~or~~]  
5 55.17721, or 55.1781-55.17892, except that the board shall review  
6 all construction, repair, or rehabilitation to be financed by bonds  
7 issued under those sections to determine whether the construction,  
8 rehabilitation, or repair meets the standards adopted by board rule  
9 for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the construction,  
10 rehabilitation, or repair does not meet those standards, the board  
11 shall notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of  
12 the house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

13           SECTION 4. This Act does not affect any authority or  
14 restriction regarding the activities that a public institution of  
15 higher education may conduct in connection with a facility financed  
16 by bonds authorized by this Act.

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