

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1909

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to The University of Texas at Brownsville, including its
3 partnership agreement with the Texas Southmost College District.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 78.02(c), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (c) The university may enter into any [~~a partnership~~]
8 agreement with the Texas Southmost [~~Union Junior~~] College District
9 to facilitate higher education advancement and opportunity in the
10 district's service area and the transition of students from Texas
11 Southmost College to [~~in the manner authorized by Subchapter N,~~
12 ~~Chapter 51, to offer a lower-division, occupational, or technical~~
13 ~~course that is not offered at~~] the university. An agreement may
14 cover any matter related to those purposes, including the
15 facilitation of the transfer of course credit and the alignment of
16 courses between the university and the college.

17 SECTION 2. Section 78.03(a), Education Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (a) The board may prescribe courses at the university
20 leading to customary degrees offered at leading American
21 universities and may award those degrees, including bachelor's,
22 master's, and doctoral degrees and their equivalents [~~authorize the~~
23 ~~university to offer any upper-level or graduate course which is~~
24 ~~authorized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)].~~

1 SECTION 3. Section 78.04, Education Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 78.04. FACILITIES. (a) The board shall make
4 provisions for adequate physical facilities for use by the
5 university. Subject to the agreement of the parties as provided by
6 Subsection (b), the facilities may include facilities~~[7]~~ on land
7 committed by the board of trustees of the Texas Southmost [~~Union~~
8 ~~Junior~~] College District on the district's Texas Southmost College
9 campus. The provision of facilities is~~[7]~~ subject to the normal
10 requirements of the board and the Texas Higher Education
11 Coordinating Board.

12 (b) The board and the board of trustees of the Texas
13 Southmost College District may contract with each other for the use
14 of facilities. The terms of the contract shall be negotiated
15 between the parties and must provide for reasonable compensation
16 for the use of facilities.

17 SECTION 4. Sections 78.02(b) and (d), 78.07, and 78.08,
18 Education Code, are repealed.

19 SECTION 5. (a) The University of Texas at Brownsville and
20 the Texas Southmost College District, formerly referred to as the
21 Southmost Union Junior College District, are free-standing,
22 independent institutions that have operated in close association
23 under a partnership agreement authorized by Section 78.02,
24 Education Code. It is the intent of this Act to facilitate the
25 independent operation of the university and the college district in
26 the absence of such a partnership, but this Act does not affect the
27 authority of the university and the college district to continue in

1 partnership or to establish a new partnership at a future date.

2 (b) The university and the college district shall cooperate
3 to ensure that each institution timely achieves separate
4 accreditation from a recognized accrediting agency before the
5 termination of the existing partnership agreement and shall
6 continue a partnership agreement in effect until August 31, 2015,
7 to the extent necessary to ensure accreditation.

8 (c) The university and the college district may extend or
9 renew the existing agreement, agree to its earlier termination, or
10 execute a new agreement as necessary to ensure accreditation.

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