A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment by The University of Texas System of a

3 law school in the Rio Grande Valley.

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

5   SECTION 1.   Chapter 75, Education Code, is amended by adding

6 Subchapter D to read as follows:

7   SUBCHAPTER D. RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF LAW

8   Sec. 75.251.   DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "board" means

9 the board of regents of The University of Texas System.

10   Sec. 75.252.   RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF LAW.   (a)   The

11 board may establish and operate as a professional school of The

12 University of Texas System a school of law in Cameron County or

13 Hidalgo County as the board considers appropriate.

14   (b)   In administering the law school, the board may prescribe

15 courses leading to customary degrees offered at other leading

16 American schools of law and may award those degrees.

17   (c)   Before the board establishes a law school under this

18 section, the board shall request the Texas Higher Education

19 Coordinating Board to prepare a feasibility study to determine the

20 actions the system must take to obtain accreditation of the law

21 school. The coordinating board shall deliver a copy of the study to

22 the board and to the chair of each legislative standing committee or

23 subcommittee with jurisdiction over higher education.

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

1 before August 31, 2019, 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, 2013.