

By: Rodriguez

S.B. No. 1042

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund an interdisciplinary research facility at The University of Texas at El Paso.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 55.1782 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.1782. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of The University of Texas System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for an interdisciplinary research facility at The University of Texas at El Paso to be financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, including bonds issued in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program and secured as provided by that program, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$100 million.

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

1 bonds, are outstanding.

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

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

10 (e) Approval of the board is not required to acquire real
11 property that is financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)
12 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.1735(a)(1), 55.174,
13 55.1742, 55.1743, 55.1744, 55.1751-55.17592, 55.1768, 55.1771,
14 ~~or~~ 55.17721, or 55.1782, except that the board shall review all
15 real property to be financed by bonds issued under those sections to
16 determine whether the property meets the standards adopted by the
17 board for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the property does
18 not meet those standards, the board shall notify the governor, the
19 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
20 and the Legislative Budget Board.

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

23 (b) This section does not apply to construction, repair, or
24 rehabilitation financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)
25 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, 55.174, 55.1742,
26 55.1743, 55.1744, 55.1751-55.17592, 55.1768, 55.1771, ~~or~~
27 55.17721, or 55.1782, except that the board shall review all

1 construction, repair, or rehabilitation to be financed by bonds
2 issued under those sections to determine whether the construction,
3 rehabilitation, or repair meets the standards adopted by board rule
4 for cost, efficiency, and space use. If the construction,
5 rehabilitation, or repair does not meet those standards, the board
6 shall notify the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
7 the house of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board.

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

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.