

By: Lozano

H.B. No. 812

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects at public institutions of higher education; making an appropriation.

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

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

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

(1) Texas A&M University--Commerce, \$40,500,000 for construction of a nursing and health sciences building;

(2) Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, \$67,500,000 for construction of a life sciences research and engineering building;

1 (3) Texas A&M University--Kingsville, \$93 million for
2 a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics classroom
3 building;

4 (4) Texas A&M University--Texarkana, \$30,000,000 for
5 construction of an academic and student services building;

6 (5) West Texas A&M University:

7 (A) \$7,500,000 for renovation of the Amarillo
8 Center; and

9 (B) \$32,250,000 for construction of an
10 agricultural sciences complex;

11 (6) The Texas A&M University System Health Science
12 Center:

13 (A) \$60,000,000 for construction of a
14 multidisciplinary research and education facility in Bryan, Texas;
15 and

16 (B) \$67,500,000 for construction of a dental
17 clinic facility at the Baylor College of Dentistry;

18 (7) Texas A&M International University, \$41,698,125
19 for construction of an academic and laboratory building;

20 (8) Prairie View A&M University, \$11,250,000 for
21 construction of a fabrication center;

22 (9) Tarleton State University:

23 (A) \$56,250,000 for construction of an applied
24 sciences building; and

25 (B) \$41,250,000 for construction of a southwest
26 metroplex building for the campus in Midlothian;

27 (10) Texas A&M University, \$63,750,000 for

1 construction of a biocontainment research facility;

2 (11) Texas A&M University at Galveston, \$62,250,000
3 for expansion of an instructional and teaching laboratory;

4 (12) Texas A&M University--Central Texas, \$30,000,000
5 for construction of a multipurpose building; and

6 (13) Texas A&M University--San Antonio, \$52,500,000
7 for construction of a science and technology building and
8 infrastructure for campus development.

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

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

22 Sec. 55.1782. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
23 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
24 subchapter, the board of regents of The University of Texas System
25 may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or
26 equip property and facilities, including roads and related
27 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of

1 bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a
2 systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board for the
3 following institutions, not to exceed the following aggregate
4 principal amounts for the projects specified, as follows:

5 (1) The University of Texas at Austin, \$67,500,000 for
6 renovation of Robert A. Welch Hall;

7 (2) The University of Texas--Rio Grande Valley:

8 (A) \$37,950,000 for construction of a
9 multipurpose academic center at the campus in Brownsville; and

10 (B) \$31,875,000 for construction of an
11 interdisciplinary engineering and academic studies building at the
12 campus in Edinburg;

13 (3) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
14 Center at Dallas, \$67,500,000 for the construction and renovation
15 of a vivarium and academic and laboratory facilities;

16 (4) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
17 San Antonio, \$67,500,000 for the renovation of a medical and dental
18 education building and the School of Nursing;

19 (5) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer
20 Center, \$52,500,000 for construction of the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan
21 Al Nahyan building;

22 (6) The University of Texas Medical Branch at
23 Galveston, \$50,850,000 for construction of a health education
24 center;

25 (7) The University of Texas at Arlington, \$67,500,000
26 for construction of a science and engineering innovation and
27 research building;

1 (8) The University of Texas at Dallas, \$67,500,000 for
2 construction of an engineering building;

3 (9) The University of Texas at El Paso, \$67,500,000
4 for construction of an interdisciplinary research facility;

5 (10) The University of Texas at San Antonio,
6 \$67,500,000 for construction of an instructional science and
7 engineering building;

8 (11) The University of Texas at Tyler, \$57,000,000 for
9 construction of a STEM building;

10 (12) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
11 Houston, \$67,500,000 for the renovation and modernization of a
12 medical school building, the School of Public Health, and
13 University Center Tower;

14 (13) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
15 Tyler, \$11,250,000 for the renovation of a facility for physician
16 residents training; and

17 (14) The University of Texas of the Permian Basin,
18 \$45,000,000 for construction of an engineering building.

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

26 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
27 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer

1 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of The University
2 of Texas System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
3 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
4 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

5 Sec. 55.1783. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
6 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
7 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston
8 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
9 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
10 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
11 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
12 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
13 the board for the following institutions or entities, not to exceed
14 the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects
15 specified, as follows:

16 (1) the University of Houston:

17 (A) \$90,000,000 for construction of a health and
18 biomedical sciences center; and

19 (B) \$45,000,000 for construction of a new
20 academic building located in Sugar Land, Texas;

21 (2) the University of Houston--Clear Lake:

22 (A) \$17,100,000 for construction of a health
23 sciences and classroom building located in Pearland, Texas; and

24 (B) \$76,050,000 for construction of a STEM and
25 classroom building;

26 (3) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$67,500,000
27 for construction of a science and technology building;

1 (4) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$64,065,000
2 for construction of a science, technology, and classroom building;
3 and

4 (5) the University of Houston System, \$27,405,000 for
5 construction of a Cinco Ranch building located in the area near
6 Katy, Texas.

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 University of Houston
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 University
17 of Houston 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. 55.1784. TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
21 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
22 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas State University
23 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
24 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
25 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
26 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
27 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by

1 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the
2 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
3 as follows:

4 (1) Lamar University, \$54,000,000 for construction of
5 a science and technology building;

6 (2) Lamar State College--Orange, \$9,375,000 for
7 construction of a multipurpose education building;

8 (3) Lamar State College--Port Arthur, \$7,200,000 for
9 expansion of technology program facilities;

10 (4) Lamar Institute of Technology, \$6,480,000 for
11 renovation of the technical arts buildings;

12 (5) Texas State University:

13 (A) \$67,500,000 for construction of an
14 engineering and sciences building; and

15 (B) \$50,625,000 for construction of a health
16 professions building in Round Rock, Texas;

17 (6) Sam Houston State University, \$45,000,000 for
18 construction of a biology laboratory building; and

19 (7) Sul Ross State University, \$5,850,000 for
20 renovation and modernization of educational and related facilities
21 and infrastructure.

22 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
23 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
24 an institution, branch, or entity of the Texas State University
25 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
26 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
27 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 Texas State
5 University 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 Sec. 55.1785. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
9 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
10 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of North Texas
11 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
12 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
13 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
14 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
15 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
16 the board for the following institutions or entities, not to exceed
17 the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects
18 specified, as follows:

19 (1) the University of North Texas System, \$42,000,000
20 for renovation of college of law buildings;

21 (2) the University of North Texas, \$62,100,000 for
22 construction and renovation of college of visual arts and design
23 facilities;

24 (3) the University of North Texas at Dallas,
25 \$52,500,000 for construction of a student learning and success
26 center; and

27 (4) the University of North Texas Health Science

1 Center at Fort Worth, \$67,500,000 for construction of an
2 interdisciplinary research building.

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

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

16 Sec. 55.1786. TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY. (a) In addition to
17 the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of
18 regents of Texas Woman's University may acquire, purchase,
19 construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property and
20 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a
21 science and technology learning center, to be financed through the
22 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed
23 the aggregate principal amount of \$32,297,450.

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 property and facilities, including roads and related
8 infrastructure, for the Gunn College of Health Science and Human
9 Services, to be financed through the issuance of bonds in
10 accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the aggregate
11 principal amount of \$51,850,000.

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 property
22 and facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a
23 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research
24 building at Stephen F. Austin State University, to be financed
25 through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter,
26 not to exceed the aggregate principal amount of \$49,300,000.

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 property and facilities, including roads and
11 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
12 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
13 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
14 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the
15 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
16 as follows:

17 (1) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center:

18 (A) \$56,497,500 for renovation and expansion of
19 Lubbock education, research, and technology facilities;

20 (B) \$13,365,000 for construction of the Permian
21 Basin academic facility; and

22 (C) \$4,762,500 for construction of the Amarillo
23 Panhandle Clinical/Hospital Simulation;

24 (2) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El
25 Paso, \$63,720,000 for construction of the El Paso Medical Science
26 Building II;

27 (3) Texas Tech University, \$65,947,500 for

1 construction of an experimental sciences building; and

2 (4) Angelo State University, \$18,022,500 for
3 construction of a College of Health and Human Services building.

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

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

17 Sec. 55.17891. TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL
18 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
19 subchapter, the board of regents of Texas Southern University may
20 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip
21 property and facilities, including roads and related
22 infrastructure, for the Robert J. Terry Library at Texas Southern
23 University, to be financed through the issuance of bonds in
24 accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the aggregate
25 principal amount of \$59,710,680.

26 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
27 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of

1 Texas Southern University, including student tuition charges. The
2 amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or
3 abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds
4 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

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

14 (1) Texas State Technical College--West Texas,
15 \$9,967,270 for construction of an industrial technology center;

16 (2) Texas State Technical College--Harlingen,
17 \$3,114,772 for Phase II of the Engineering Technology Center
18 renovation;

19 (3) Texas State Technical College--Marshall,
20 \$7,875,400 for construction of a North Texas technology building;
21 and

22 (4) Texas State Technical College--Waco, \$12,417,558
23 for construction of the Fort Bend Technical Center.

24 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of those
25 bonds all or any part of the revenue funds of an institution,
26 branch, or entity of the Texas State Technical College System,
27 including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge made

1 under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
2 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
3 bonds, are outstanding.

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

10 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect any authority or
11 restriction regarding the activities that a public institution of
12 higher education may conduct in connection with a facility financed
13 by bonds authorized by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. (a) The amount of \$2.89 billion is appropriated
15 out of the economic stabilization fund to the comptroller of public
16 accounts for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2017, for
17 distribution to institutions of higher education and university
18 systems for debt service on revenue bonds authorized by this Act.
19 This subsection takes effect only if this Act receives a vote of
20 two-thirds of the members present in each house of the legislature,
21 as provided by Section 49-g(m), Article III, Texas Constitution.
22 If this Act does not receive a vote of two-thirds of the members
23 present in each house of the legislature, this subsection does not
24 take effect.

25 (b) This subsection takes effect only if Subsection (a) of
26 this section does not take effect. The amount of \$2.89 billion is
27 appropriated out of the general revenue fund to the comptroller of

1 public accounts for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31,
2 2017, for distribution to institutions of higher education and
3 university systems for debt service on revenue bonds authorized by
4 this Act.

5 (c) The comptroller shall distribute a portion of the amount
6 appropriated by Subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as
7 applicable, to each institution of higher education or university
8 system, as applicable, in accordance with calculations made by the
9 Legislative Budget Board of each institution's or system's
10 proportionate share of the amount appropriated based on the amount
11 of revenue bonds authorized by this Act for each institution or
12 system.

13 (d) The Legislative Budget Board shall make the initial
14 calculations under this section and notify the comptroller and the
15 applicable institutions of higher education and university systems
16 of the respective shares to be distributed under this section as
17 soon as practicable. The Legislative Budget Board may make
18 adjustments to those calculations and provide a final determination
19 of those shares.

20 SECTION 4. Except as provided by Sections 3(a) and (b) of
21 this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.