

By: Martinez, Herrero, Canales

H.B. No. 3467

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a postsecondary distance learning feasibility study conducted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.981 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.981. POSTSECONDARY DISTANCE LEARNING FEASIBILITY STUDY. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall conduct a feasibility study that explores postsecondary distance learning opportunities through an interactive video classroom in accordance with this section.

(b) The coordinating board must conduct the feasibility study with respect to at least the Rio Grande Valley region of this state. The study must:

(1) explore the possibility of using an interactive video classroom to:

(A) expand medical education opportunities; and

(B) increase access to undergraduate and graduate courses of all types; and

(2) identify possible impediments to postsecondary distance learning opportunities, including program accreditation requirements and the availability of funds for that purpose.

(c) Not later than November 1, 2016, the coordinating board shall complete the feasibility study and post the results of the

1 feasibility study on its website.

2 (d) This section expires September 1, 2017.

3 SECTION 2. 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, 2015.