

By: Martinez

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 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:

(A) using technology to connect medical schools with other medical entities in this state;

(B) allowing secondary and postsecondary students to experience distance learning opportunities through attendance of appropriate postsecondary courses through live, full-motion videoconferencing; and

(C) offering virtual, interactive undergraduate or graduate degree programs to secondary or postsecondary students, as appropriate; and

(2) identify possible impediments to postsecondary

1 distance learning opportunities, including program accreditation
2 requirements and the availability of funds for that purpose.

3 (c) The coordinating board shall post the results of the
4 feasibility study on its website.

5 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2016, the Texas
6 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall develop and begin
7 conducting the feasibility study required under Section 51.981,
8 Education Code, as added by this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.