

By: Watson

S.B. No. 245

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund  
3 capital projects at public institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Sections 55.1781, 55.1782, 55.1783, 55.1784,  
7 55.1785, 55.1786, 55.1787, 55.1788, 55.1789, 55.17891, and  
8 55.17892 to read as follows:

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

19 (1) Texas A&M University--Commerce, \$60,000,000 for  
20 construction of a nursing and health sciences building;

21 (2) Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi,  
22 \$120,000,000 for construction of a life sciences research and  
23 engineering building;

24 (3) Texas A&M University--Kingsville, \$77,111,899 for

1 construction of a music building;

2 (4) Texas A&M University--Texarkana, \$40,000,000 for  
3 construction of an academic and student health sciences building;

4 (5) West Texas A&M University:

5 (A) \$20,000,000 for renovation of the Amarillo  
6 Center; and

7 (B) \$53,000,000 for construction of an  
8 agricultural sciences complex;

9 (6) The Texas A&M University System Health Science  
10 Center:

11 (A) \$100,000,000 for construction of a  
12 multidisciplinary research and education facility in Bryan, Texas;  
13 and

14 (B) \$119,371,824 for construction of a dental  
15 clinic facility at the Baylor College of Dentistry;

16 (7) Texas A&M International University, \$60,625,000  
17 for construction of an academic and laboratory learning center;

18 (8) Prairie View A&M University, \$15,000,000 for  
19 construction of a fabrication center;

20 (9) Tarleton State University:

21 (A) \$85,600,000 for construction of an applied  
22 sciences building; and

23 (B) \$99,600,000 for construction of a southwest  
24 metroplex building for the campus in Midlothian;

25 (10) Texas A&M University, \$95,000,000 for  
26 construction of a biocontainment research facility;

27 (11) Texas A&M University at Galveston, \$134,000,000

1 for construction of an academic building;

2 (12) Texas A&M University--Central Texas, \$40,000,000

3 for construction of a multipurpose building;

4 (13) Texas A&M University--San Antonio, \$70,000,000

5 for construction of a science and technology building; and

6 (14) the Texas Engineering Experiment Station,

7 \$65,000,000 for construction of a center for infrastructure

8 renewal.

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 (d) The expanded capacity at system institutions

23 attributable to the authorization provided for projects under

24 Subsection (a) supports the provision of dual credit or career and

25 technology education programs in furtherance of the goals of

26 Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular

27 Session, 2013.

1       Sec. 55.1782. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
2 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
3 subchapter, the board of regents of The University of Texas System  
4 may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or  
5 equip property and facilities, including roads and related  
6 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of  
7 bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a  
8 systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board for the  
9 following institutions, not to exceed the following aggregate  
10 principal amounts for the projects specified, as follows:

11           (1) The University of Texas at Austin, \$125,000,000  
12 for renovation of Robert A. Welch Hall;

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

14                   (A) \$50,600,000 for construction of a  
15 multipurpose academic center at the campus in Brownsville; and

16                   (B) \$50,000,000 for construction of an  
17 interdisciplinary engineering and academic studies building at the  
18 campus in Edinburg;

19           (3) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
20 Center at Dallas, \$102,000,000 for the construction and renovation  
21 of a vivarium;

22           (4) The University of Texas Health Science Center at  
23 San Antonio, \$93,800,000 for the renovation of a medical and dental  
24 education building;

25           (5) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer  
26 Center, \$361,000,000 for construction of the Sheikh Zayed Bin  
27 Sultan Al Nahyan Building for Personalized Cancer Care;

1           (6) The University of Texas Medical Branch at  
2 Galveston, \$90,400,000 for construction of a health education  
3 center;

4           (7) The University of Texas at Arlington, \$244,000,000  
5 for construction of a science and engineering innovation and  
6 research building;

7           (8) The University of Texas at Dallas, \$110,000,000  
8 for construction of an engineering building;

9           (9) The University of Texas at El Paso, \$117,000,000  
10 for construction of an interdisciplinary research facility;

11           (10) The University of Texas at San Antonio,  
12 \$115,000,000 for construction of an instructional science and  
13 engineering building;

14           (11) The University of Texas at Tyler, \$76,000,000 for  
15 construction of a STEM building;

16           (12) The University of Texas Health Science Center at  
17 Houston, \$117,000,000 for the renovation and modernization of a  
18 medical school building;

19           (13) The University of Texas Health Science Center at  
20 Tyler, \$18,500,000 for the renovation of a facility for physician  
21 residents training; and

22           (14) The University of Texas of the Permian Basin,  
23 \$60,000,000 for construction of an engineering building.

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 an institution, branch, or entity of The University of Texas  
27 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge

1 made 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 University  
7 of Texas 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 (d) The expanded capacity at system institutions  
11 attributable to the authorization provided for projects under  
12 Subsection (a) supports the provision of dual credit or career and  
13 technology education programs in furtherance of the goals of  
14 Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular  
15 Session, 2013.

16 Sec. 55.1783. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
17 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
18 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston  
19 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
20 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and  
21 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the  
22 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in  
23 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by  
24 the board for the following institutions or entities, not to exceed  
25 the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects  
26 specified, as follows:

27 (1) the University of Houston:

1           (A) \$165,000,000 for construction of a health and  
2 biomedical sciences center; and

3           (B) \$91,350,000 for construction of a new  
4 academic building located in Sugar Land, Texas;

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

6           (A) \$34,200,000 for construction of a health  
7 sciences and classroom building located in Pearland, Texas; and

8           (B) \$101,875,000 for construction of a STEM and  
9 classroom building;

10          (3) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$104,700,000  
11 for construction of a science and technology building;

12          (4) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$85,420,000  
13 for construction of a science, technology, and classroom building;  
14 and

15          (5) the University of Houston System, \$36,540,000 for  
16 construction of a Cinco Ranch academic building located in the area  
17 near Katy, Texas.

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

25          (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to  
26 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer  
27 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the University

1 of Houston System to ensure the most equitable and efficient  
2 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or  
3 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

4 (d) The expanded capacity at system institutions  
5 attributable to the authorization provided for projects under  
6 Subsection (a) supports the provision of dual credit or career and  
7 technology education programs in furtherance of the goals of  
8 Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular  
9 Session, 2013.

10 Sec. 55.1784. TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
11 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
12 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas State University  
13 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
14 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and  
15 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the  
16 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in  
17 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by  
18 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the  
19 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,  
20 as follows:

21 (1) Lamar University, \$81,000,000 for construction of  
22 a science and technology building;

23 (2) Lamar State College--Orange, \$12,500,000 for  
24 construction of a multipurpose education building;

25 (3) Lamar State College--Port Arthur, \$10,100,000 for  
26 expansion of technology program facilities;

27 (4) Lamar Institute of Technology, \$16,500,000 for



1 renovation of the technical arts buildings;

2 (5) Texas State University:

3 (A) \$107,000,000 for construction of an  
4 engineering and sciences building; and

5 (B) \$67,500,000 for construction of a medical  
6 education and research building in Round Rock, Texas;

7 (6) Sam Houston State University, \$60,000,000 for  
8 construction of a biology laboratory building; and

9 (7) Sul Ross State University, \$7,800,000 for  
10 renovation and modernization of educational and related facilities  
11 and infrastructure.

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 an institution, branch, or entity of the Texas State University  
15 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge  
16 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the  
17 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those  
18 bonds, are outstanding.

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

25 (d) The expanded capacity at system institutions  
26 attributable to the authorization provided for projects under  
27 Subsection (a) supports the provision of dual credit or career and

1 technology education programs in furtherance of the goals of  
2 Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular  
3 Session, 2013.

4 Sec. 55.1785. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
5 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
6 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of North Texas  
7 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
8 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and  
9 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the  
10 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in  
11 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by  
12 the board for the following institutions or entities, not to exceed  
13 the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects  
14 specified, as follows:

15 (1) the University of North Texas System, \$101,000,000  
16 for renovation of college of law buildings;

17 (2) the University of North Texas, \$92,000,000 for  
18 construction and renovation of college of visual arts and design  
19 facilities;

20 (3) the University of North Texas at Dallas,  
21 \$70,000,000 for construction of a student learning and success  
22 center; and

23 (4) the University of North Texas Health Science  
24 Center at Fort Worth, \$121,000,000 for construction of an  
25 interdisciplinary research building.

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

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

12 (d) The expanded capacity at system institutions  
13 attributable to the authorization provided for projects under  
14 Subsection (a) supports the provision of dual credit or career and  
15 technology education programs in furtherance of the goals of  
16 Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular  
17 Session, 2013.

18 Sec. 55.1786. TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY. (a) In addition to  
19 the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of  
20 regents of Texas Woman's University may acquire, purchase,  
21 construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property and  
22 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a  
23 science and technology learning center, to be financed through the  
24 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed  
25 the aggregate principal amount of \$51,347,200.

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 Woman's 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 (c) The expanded capacity at the university attributable to  
6 the authorization provided under Subsection (a) supports the  
7 provision of dual credit or career and technology education  
8 programs in furtherance of the goals of Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts  
9 of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013.

10 Sec. 55.1787. MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL  
11 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
12 subchapter, the board of regents of Midwestern State University may  
13 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip  
14 property and facilities, including roads and related  
15 infrastructure, for the Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human  
16 Services, to be financed through the issuance of bonds in  
17 accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the aggregate  
18 principal amount of \$61,000,000.

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 Midwestern State University, including student tuition charges.  
22 The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced  
23 or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds  
24 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

25 (c) The expanded capacity at the university attributable to  
26 the authorization provided under Subsection (a) supports the  
27 provision of dual credit or career and technology education

1 programs in furtherance of the goals of Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts  
2 of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013.

3 Sec. 55.1788. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY. (a) In  
4 addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the  
5 board of regents of Stephen F. Austin State University may acquire,  
6 purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property  
7 and facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a  
8 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research  
9 building at Stephen F. Austin State University, to be financed  
10 through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter,  
11 not to exceed the aggregate principal amount of \$58,000,000.

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 Stephen F. Austin State University, including student tuition  
15 charges. The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not  
16 be reduced or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is  
17 made, or bonds issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

18 (c) The expanded capacity at the university attributable to  
19 the authorization provided under Subsection (a) supports the  
20 provision of dual credit or career and technology education  
21 programs in furtherance of the goals of Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts  
22 of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013.

23 Sec. 55.1789. TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL  
24 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
25 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas Tech University  
26 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,  
27 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and

1 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the  
2 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in  
3 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by  
4 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the  
5 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,  
6 as follows:

7           (1) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center:

8                   (A) \$83,700,000 for renovation and expansion of  
9 Lubbock education, research, and technology facilities;

10                   (B) \$19,800,000 for construction of the Permian  
11 Basin academic facility; and

12                   (C) \$9,750,000 for construction of the Amarillo  
13 Panhandle Clinical/Hospital Simulation;

14           (2) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El  
15 Paso, \$94,400,000 for construction of the El Paso Medical Science  
16 Building II;

17           (3) Texas Tech University, \$97,700,000 for  
18 construction of an experimental sciences building; and

19           (4) Angelo State University, \$26,700,000 for  
20 construction of a College of Health and Human Services building.

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

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

7       (d) The expanded capacity at system institutions  
8 attributable to the authorization provided for projects under  
9 Subsection (a) supports the provision of dual credit or career and  
10 technology education programs in furtherance of the goals of  
11 Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular  
12 Session, 2013.

13       Sec. 55.17891. TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL  
14 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
15 subchapter, the board of regents of Texas Southern University may  
16 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip  
17 property and facilities, including roads and related  
18 infrastructure, for the Robert J. Terry Library at Texas Southern  
19 University, to be financed through the issuance of bonds in  
20 accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the aggregate  
21 principal amount of \$70,247,859.

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

1       (c) The expanded capacity at the university attributable to  
2 the authorization provided under Subsection (a) supports the  
3 provision of dual credit or career and technology education  
4 programs in furtherance of the goals of Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts  
5 of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013.

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

15               (1) Texas State Technical College--West Texas,  
16 \$12,000,000 for construction of an industrial technology center in  
17 Abilene, Texas;

18               (2) Texas State Technical College--Harlingen,  
19 \$3,750,000 for Phase II of the Engineering Technology Center  
20 renovation;

21               (3) Texas State Technical College--Marshall,  
22 \$31,350,440 for construction of a North Texas extension center; and

23               (4) Texas State Technical College--Waco, \$14,950,000  
24 for construction of the Fort Bend Industrial Technology Center.

25       (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of those  
26 bonds all or any part of the revenue funds of an institution,  
27 branch, or entity of the Texas State Technical College System,



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

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

11 (d) The expanded capacity at system institutions  
12 attributable to the authorization provided for projects under  
13 Subsection (a) supports the provision of dual credit or career and  
14 technology education programs in furtherance of the goals of  
15 Chapter 211 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular  
16 Session, 2013.

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

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.