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H.B. No. 2285

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Institute for Coastal
Prairie Research and Education at the University of Houston.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 111, Education Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL PRAIRIE RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION

Sec. 111.141. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Board" means the board of regents of the
University of Houston System.

(2) "Institute" means the Texas Institute for Coastal
Prairie Research and Education established under this subchapter.

Sec. 111.142. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The Texas Institute for
Coastal Prairie Research and Education is established at the
University of Houston.

(b) The organization, control, and management of the
institute are vested in the board.

Sec. 111.143. POWERS AND DUTIES. The institute shall:

(1) conduct environmental research and education on
coastal prairie and prairie restoration;

(2) provide a setting for other entities to conduct
environmental research and education on coastal prairie and prairie
restoration; and

1 (3) provide national leadership and education
2 regarding the best methods to restore coastal prairie.

3 Sec. 111.144. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES. The
4 University of Houston shall encourage public or private entities to
5 participate in or support the operation of the institute and may
6 enter into an agreement with any public or private entity for that
7 purpose. An agreement may allow the institute to provide
8 information, services, or other assistance to an entity in exchange
9 for the entity's participation or support.

10 Sec. 111.145. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board may solicit,
11 accept, and administer gifts and grants from any public or private
12 source for the purposes of the institute.

13 Sec. 111.146. PERSONNEL. The board may employ personnel
14 for the institute as necessary.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.