

1-1 By: Thompson of Brazoria, et al. H.B. No. 2285
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Taylor of Galveston)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2017;
 1-4 May 9, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
 1-5 Education; May 17, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-6 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 17, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-17 AN ACT

1-18 relating to the establishment of the Texas Institute for Coastal
 1-19 Prairie Research and Education at the University of Houston.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Chapter 111, Education Code, is amended by
 1-22 adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

1-23 SUBCHAPTER J. TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL PRAIRIE RESEARCH AND
 1-24 EDUCATION

1-25 Sec. 111.141. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-26 (1) "Board" means the board of regents of the
 1-27 University of Houston System.

1-28 (2) "Institute" means the Texas Institute for Coastal
 1-29 Prairie Research and Education established under this subchapter.

1-30 Sec. 111.142. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The Texas Institute for
 1-31 Coastal Prairie Research and Education is established at the
 1-32 University of Houston.

1-33 (b) The organization, control, and management of the
 1-34 institute are vested in the board.

1-35 Sec. 111.143. POWERS AND DUTIES. The institute shall:

1-36 (1) conduct environmental research and education on
 1-37 coastal prairie and prairie restoration;

1-38 (2) provide a setting for other entities to conduct
 1-39 environmental research and education on coastal prairie and prairie
 1-40 restoration; and

1-41 (3) provide national leadership and education
 1-42 regarding the best methods to restore coastal prairie.

1-43 Sec. 111.144. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES. The
 1-44 University of Houston shall encourage public or private entities to
 1-45 participate in or support the operation of the institute and may
 1-46 enter into an agreement with any public or private entity for that
 1-47 purpose. An agreement may allow the institute to provide
 1-48 information, services, or other assistance to an entity in exchange
 1-49 for the entity's participation or support.

1-50 Sec. 111.145. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board may solicit,
 1-51 accept, and administer gifts and grants from any public or private
 1-52 source for the purposes of the institute.

1-53 Sec. 111.146. PERSONNEL. The board may employ personnel
 1-54 for the institute as necessary.

1-55 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-56 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-57 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-58 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-59 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

1-60 * * * * *