

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 505

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects at public institutions of higher education; making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 55.1791, 55.1792, 55.1793, 55.1794, 55.1795, 55.1796, 55.1797, 55.1798, and 55.1799 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.1791. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified, as follows:

(1) Prairie View A&M University:

(A) \$60 million for construction of an engineering classroom and research building; and

(B) \$48 million for construction of a multipurpose educational and event facility;

(2) Tarleton State University:

1 (A) \$72 million for construction of an
2 agriculture and natural resources building; and

3 (B) \$70 million for construction of the Tarleton
4 State University Building 2 located in Fort Worth, a physical
5 plant, and campus infrastructure;

6 (3) Texas A&M University, \$85 million for construction
7 of an instructional lab and innovative learning facility;

8 (4) Texas A&M University--Central Texas, \$25 million
9 for construction of a central utility plant;

10 (5) Texas A&M University--Commerce, \$49.5 million for
11 construction of an agricultural multipurpose education and
12 training center;

13 (6) Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, \$58.5
14 million for construction of an arts and media building;

15 (7) Texas A&M University at Galveston, \$58,349,500 for
16 construction of an immersive scholarship and learning environment
17 building, a central plant, and campus infrastructure;

18 (8) Texas A&M International University:

19 (A) \$9 million for renovation of and additions to
20 fine and performing arts instructional and support spaces; and

21 (B) \$75 million for construction of a student
22 classroom and events center;

23 (9) Texas A&M University--Kingsville, \$65 million for
24 construction of a STEM health professions workforce development
25 complex;

26 (10) Texas A&M University--San Antonio, \$53 million
27 for construction of an academic and library building;

1 (11) Texas A&M University--Texarkana, \$46 million for
2 construction of a business, engineering, and technology building;

3 (12) West Texas A&M University:

4 (A) \$28.5 million for capital improvements for
5 life and fire safety and fire compliance issues; and

6 (B) \$20 million for renovation of the education
7 building; and

8 (13) The Texas A&M University System Health Science
9 Center, \$100 million for construction of the Texas Medical Center
10 Building 3.

11 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
12 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
13 an institution, branch, or entity of The Texas A&M University
14 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
15 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
16 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
17 bonds, are outstanding.

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

24 Sec. 55.1792. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
25 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
26 subchapter, the board of regents of The University of Texas System
27 may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or

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

7 (1) The University of Texas at Arlington, \$60,800,000
8 for construction of a social work and college of nursing academy
9 building;

10 (2) The University of Texas at Austin, \$100 million
11 for restoration of the J.T. Patterson Labs building;

12 (3) The University of Texas at Dallas:

13 (A) \$120 million for a joint project with The
14 University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas for
15 construction of a translational biomedical engineering and science
16 building; and

17 (B) \$85 million for construction of a student
18 success center;

19 (4) The University of Texas at El Paso, \$113 million
20 for construction of an advanced teaching and learning complex;

21 (5) The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, \$40
22 million for improvement and renovation of the Mesa building;

23 (6) The University of Texas--Rio Grande Valley, \$70
24 million for construction of a health affairs building;

25 (7) The University of Texas at San Antonio,
26 \$126,250,000 for construction of a college of business building for
27 the downtown campus;

1 (8) The University of Texas at Tyler, \$50 million for
2 construction of a college of nursing and health science building;

3 (9) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
4 Houston, \$200 million for a joint project with The University of
5 Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center for construction of a research
6 building;

7 (10) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
8 San Antonio, \$82 million for construction of the Glenn Biggs
9 Institute for Alzheimer's & Neurodegenerative Diseases building;

10 (11) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
11 Tyler, \$18.5 million for construction of a proposed capital
12 project;

13 (12) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer
14 Center, \$200 million for a joint project with The University of
15 Texas Health Science Center at Houston for construction of a
16 research building;

17 (13) The University of Texas Medical Branch at
18 Galveston, \$157 million for construction of facilities; and

19 (14) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
20 Center at Dallas, \$120 million for a joint project with The
21 University of Texas at Dallas for construction of a translational
22 biomedical engineering and science building.

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

1 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
2 bonds, are outstanding.

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

9 Sec. 55.1793. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
10 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
11 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston
12 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
13 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
14 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
15 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
16 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
17 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the
18 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
19 as follows:

20 (1) the University of Houston, \$60 million for
21 construction of a law center building;

22 (2) the University of Houston--Clear Lake, \$56 million
23 for Phase II of the STEM and classroom building construction;

24 (3) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$110 million
25 for construction of an arts, sciences, engineering, and
26 entrepreneurship center; and

27 (4) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$74,700,000

1 for campus expansion.

2 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
3 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
4 an institution, branch, or entity of the University of Houston
5 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
6 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
7 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
8 bonds, are outstanding.

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

15 Sec. 55.1794. TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
16 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
17 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas State University
18 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
19 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
20 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
21 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
22 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
23 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the
24 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
25 as follows:

26 (1) Lamar University, \$45 million for construction of
27 the Lamar University Digital Learning Center;

1 (2) Lamar State College--Orange, \$32 million for
2 construction of an academic building;

3 (3) Lamar State College--Port Arthur:

4 (A) \$1,012,500 for construction of a workforce
5 training center; and

6 (B) \$20 million for construction of a proposed
7 capital project;

8 (4) Lamar Institute of Technology:

9 (A) \$1.1 million for construction of a
10 professional truck driving academy building; and

11 (B) \$20 million for construction of a workforce
12 training center;

13 (5) Sam Houston State University, \$70 million for
14 construction of an allied health building;

15 (6) Sul Ross State University, \$25,550,000 for
16 expansion of the fine arts facility;

17 (7) Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College, \$20
18 million for a proposed capital project for educational
19 opportunities located in Eagle Pass, Texas; and

20 (8) Texas State University:

21 (A) \$125 million for construction of a STEM
22 classroom building located in San Marcos, Texas; and

23 (B) \$75 million for construction of a health
24 professions building located in Round Rock, Texas.

25 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
26 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
27 an institution, branch, or entity of the Texas State University

1 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
2 made 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 University 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 Sec. 55.1795. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
12 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
13 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of North Texas
14 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
15 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
16 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
17 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
18 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
19 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the
20 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
21 as follows:

22 (1) the University of North Texas, \$126 million for
23 construction of a science and technology research building;

24 (2) the University of North Texas at Dallas, \$92
25 million for construction of a STEM building; and

26 (3) the University of North Texas Health Science
27 Center at Fort Worth, \$115.5 million for construction of an

1 academic building.

2 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
3 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
4 an institution, branch, or entity of the University of North Texas
5 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
6 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
7 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
8 bonds, are outstanding.

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

15 Sec. 55.1796. TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL BONDS.

16 (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter,
17 the board of regents of Texas Woman's University may acquire,
18 purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property
19 and facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a
20 health sciences center, to be financed through the issuance of
21 bonds in accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the
22 aggregate principal amount of \$105 million.

23 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
24 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
25 Texas Woman's University, including student tuition charges. The
26 amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or
27 abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds

1 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

2 Sec. 55.1797. MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL
3 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
4 subchapter, the board of regents of Midwestern State University may
5 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip
6 property and facilities, including roads and related
7 infrastructure, for infrastructure upgrades, to be financed
8 through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter,
9 not to exceed the aggregate principal amount of \$10 million.

10 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
11 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
12 Midwestern State University, including student tuition charges.
13 The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced
14 or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds
15 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

16 Sec. 55.1798. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY;
17 ADDITIONAL BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted
18 by this subchapter, the board of regents of Stephen F. Austin State
19 University may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
20 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
21 related infrastructure, for a natural science and innovations
22 laboratory, to be financed through the issuance of bonds in
23 accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the aggregate
24 principal amount of \$48 million.

25 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
26 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
27 Stephen F. Austin State University, including student tuition

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

4 Sec. 55.1799. TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
5 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
6 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas Tech University
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, not to exceed the
13 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
14 as follows:

15 (1) Angelo State University, \$22.5 million for
16 construction of an art building;

17 (2) Texas Tech University, \$118,080,000 for
18 construction of a facility;

19 (3) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center,
20 \$34,650,000 for expansion of the academic and clinic building
21 located in Amarillo, Texas; and

22 (4) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El
23 Paso, \$92,349,000 for construction of a dental school 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 Texas Tech University
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 Texas Tech
7 University 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 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect any authority or
11 restriction regarding the activities that a public institution of
12 higher education may conduct in connection with a facility financed
13 by bonds authorized by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. (a) The amount of \$3,964,841,000 is
15 appropriated out of the economic stabilization fund to the
16 comptroller of public accounts for the state fiscal biennium ending
17 August 31, 2021, for distribution to institutions of higher
18 education and university systems for debt service on revenue bonds
19 authorized by this Act. This subsection takes effect only if this
20 Act receives a vote of two-thirds of the members present in each
21 house of the legislature, as provided by Section 49-g(m), Article
22 III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive a vote of
23 two-thirds of the members present in each house of the legislature,
24 this subsection does not take effect.

25 (b) This subsection takes effect only if Subsection (a) of
26 this section does not take effect. The amount of \$3,964,841,000 is
27 appropriated out of the general revenue fund to the comptroller of

1 public accounts for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31,
2 2021, for distribution to institutions of higher education and
3 university systems for debt service on revenue bonds authorized by
4 this Act.

5 (c) The comptroller shall distribute a portion of the amount
6 appropriated by Subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as
7 applicable, to each institution of higher education or university
8 system, as applicable, in accordance with calculations made by the
9 Legislative Budget Board of each institution's or system's
10 proportionate share of the amount appropriated based on the amount
11 of revenue bonds authorized by this Act for each institution or
12 system.

13 (d) The Legislative Budget Board shall make the initial
14 calculations under this section and notify the comptroller and the
15 applicable institutions of higher education and university systems
16 of the respective shares to be distributed under this section as
17 soon as practicable. The Legislative Budget Board may make
18 adjustments to those calculations and provide a final determination
19 of those shares.

20 SECTION 4. Except as provided by Sections 3(a) and (b) of
21 this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.