

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a study on best practices in STEM programs at
3 minority-serving public institutions of higher education and to a
4 grant program to implement those practices.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 61.081 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.081. STEM PROGRAMS AT MINORITY-SERVING
9 INSTITUTIONS: STUDY AND GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Minority-serving institution" means an
11 institution of higher education designated by the United States
12 Department of Education as a minority-serving institution.

13 (2) "STEM program" means a science, technology,
14 engineering, or mathematics program at a minority-serving
15 institution.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the board shall conduct
17 a study on best practices in STEM programs offered by
18 minority-serving institutions. The study must identify best
19 practices in the recruitment, retention, and advancement of members
20 of racial and ethnic minority groups in STEM programs.

21 (c) For the 2022-2023 academic year, from funds
22 appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the board
23 shall award grants to minority-serving institutions to implement
24 the best practices identified by the study conducted under

1 Subsection (b). The board shall develop a competitive application
2 process to award the grants.

3 (d) This section expires September 1, 2023.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.