

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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.