

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a feasibility study regarding establishing a four-year institution of higher education in the Texas-Mexico border region.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.06696 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.06696. STUDY REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER REGION. (a) The board shall conduct a study to examine the need for and feasibility of establishing a four-year institution of higher education in the Texas-Mexico border region served by Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College.

(b) The study must identify and examine:

(1) the impact of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College on the region, including;

(A) the number of students served by Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College; and

(B) the graduation rates of students served by Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College;

(2) the challenges related to the distance between the campuses of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College and Sul Ross State University;

(3) the gaps in educational opportunities that exist for students in the region and the effect of those gaps on local

1 employers; and

2 (4) the feasibility of establishing an institution
3 described by Subsection (a) in the city of Eagle Pass.

4 (c) The board shall prepare a written report that:

5 (1) identifies the challenges related to establishing
6 a new institution of higher education in the region;

7 (2) includes recommendations for legislative or other
8 action; and

9 (3) includes any other matter the board considers
10 appropriate.

11 (d) Not later than December 1, 2022, the board shall submit
12 the written report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
13 speaker of the house of representatives, and the chair of each
14 standing committee of the legislature with jurisdiction over higher
15 education.

16 (e) This section expires September 1, 2023.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.