

By: Louderback

H.B. No. 5150

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transfer of the University of Houston--Victoria to
The Texas A&M University System.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Chapter 87, Education Code, is
amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--VICTORIA

Sec. 87.881. ESTABLISHMENT; SCOPE. (a) Texas A&M
University--Victoria is a general academic teaching institution
located in the city of Victoria.

(b) The university is a component institution of The Texas
A&M University System and is under the management and control of the
board of regents of The Texas A&M University System. The board of
regents has the same powers and duties concerning Texas A&M
University--Victoria as are conferred on the board by statute
concerning Texas A&M University.

Sec. 87.882. COURSES AND DEGREES; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The
university shall offer undergraduate and graduate level programs.

(b) The board of regents may prescribe courses leading to
appropriate degrees and adopt other rules necessary for the
operation and management of the university.

(c) The university is subject to the authority of the Texas
Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Sec. 87.883. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board of regents may

1 solicit, accept, and administer gifts and grants for the use and
2 benefit of the university.

3 SECTION 2. TRANSFER OF GOVERNANCE OF UNIVERSITY. The
4 governance, control, management, and property of the University of
5 Houston--Victoria are transferred from the board of regents of the
6 University of Houston System to the board of regents of The Texas
7 A&M University System. The transfer is governed by Sections 3
8 through 7 of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. POWERS AND DUTIES; RULES AND POLICIES. (a) When
10 the transfer takes effect, the board of regents of The Texas A&M
11 University System shall govern, operate, manage, and control the
12 University of Houston--Victoria and all land, buildings,
13 facilities, improvements, equipment, supplies, and property
14 belonging to and constituting the University of Houston--Victoria
15 under the powers and duties conferred by law on the board of
16 regents.

17 (b) Rules and policies adopted by the board of regents of
18 the University of Houston System to govern the university that are
19 in effect when the transfer takes effect are continued in effect
20 until adopted, repealed, or superseded by the board of regents of
21 The Texas A&M University System. The board of regents of The Texas
22 A&M University System may adopt rules and policies applicable to
23 the university in anticipation of the transfer authorized by this
24 Act.

25 SECTION 4. CONTRACTS AND WRITTEN OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING
26 BONDS. Contracts and written obligations of every kind and
27 character entered into by the board of regents of the University of

1 Houston System for and on behalf of the University of
2 Houston--Victoria, including bonds, are considered ratified,
3 confirmed, and validated by the board of regents of The Texas A&M
4 University System on the effective date of the transfer. In those
5 contracts and written obligations, the board of regents of The
6 Texas A&M University System is substituted for and stands and acts
7 in the place of the board of regents of the University of Houston
8 System to the extent permitted by law.

9 SECTION 5. TUITION AND FEES. The tuition and fees
10 authorized by the board of regents of the University of Houston
11 System before and transfer of governance under this Act remain in
12 effect until the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System
13 authorizes a different amount of tuition and fees for the
14 University of Houston-Victoria as provided by law.

15 SECTION 6. EFFECT OF TRANSFER ON STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES.
16 (a) All students of the University of Houston-Victoria shall
17 become students of Texas A&M University-Victoria on the effective
18 date of this Act. The transfer of the governance of the University
19 of Houston--Victoria under this Act does not otherwise affect the
20 status of any student of the university.

21 (b) All employees of the University of Houston-Victoria
22 shall become employees of Texas A&M University-Victoria on the
23 effective date of this Act. The transfer of the governance of the
24 University of Houston--Victoria under this Act does not otherwise
25 affect the employment status or accrued benefits of a person
26 employed by the university when the transfer takes effect.

27 SECTION 7. CURRENT FUNDING. All funds that, on the

1 effective date of the transfer, have been appropriated or dedicated
2 to or are held for the use and benefit of the University of
3 Houston--Victoria under the governance of the board of regents of
4 the University of Houston System are transferred to the board of
5 regents of The Texas A&M University System for the use and benefit
6 of Texas A&M University--Victoria.

7 SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. The heading to Section 54.5405,
8 Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 54.5405. STUDENT CENTER FEE; TEXAS A&M
10 UNIVERSITY--VICTORIA [~~UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA~~].

11 SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Sections 54.5405(a) and (d),
12 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (a) The board of regents of The Texas A&M [~~the~~] University
14 [~~of Houston~~] System may impose on each student enrolled at Texas A&M
15 University--Victoria [~~the University of Houston-Victoria~~] a
16 student center fee to be used only for the purpose of financing,
17 constructing, operating, maintaining, improving, and equipping a
18 student center at the university. A fee imposed under this section
19 is in addition to any use or service fee authorized to be imposed
20 under other law.

21 (d) Revenue from a fee imposed under this section shall be
22 deposited to the credit of an account known as the "Texas A&M
23 University--Victoria [~~University of Houston-Victoria~~] Student
24 Center Fee Account" under the control of the university's student
25 fee advisory committee. Annually, the committee shall submit to
26 the president of the university its recommendation for any change
27 to the amount of the fee and a complete and itemized budget for the

1 student center together with a complete report of all student
2 center activities conducted during the past year and all
3 expenditures made in connection with those activities. The
4 president shall submit the budget to the board of regents as part of
5 the university's institutional budget. The board of regents may
6 make changes in the budget that the board determines are necessary.

7 SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. The heading to Section 54.5406,
8 Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 54.5406. HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER FEE; TEXAS A&M
10 UNIVERSITY--VICTORIA [~~UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA~~].

11 SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Sections 54.5406(a) and (d),
12 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (a) The board of regents of The Texas A&M [~~the~~] University
14 [~~of Houston~~] System may charge each student enrolled at Texas A&M
15 University--Victoria [~~the University of Houston-Victoria~~] a health
16 and wellness center fee. The fee may be used only for the purpose of
17 financing, constructing, operating, maintaining, improving, and
18 equipping a health and wellness center at Texas A&M
19 University--Victoria [~~the University of Houston-Victoria~~]. A fee
20 charged under this section is in addition to any use or service fee
21 authorized to be charged under other law.

22 (d) Revenue from a fee charged under this section shall be
23 deposited to the credit of an account known as the Texas A&M
24 University--Victoria [~~University of Houston-Victoria~~] Health and
25 Wellness Center Fee Account under the control of the university's
26 student fee advisory committee. Annually, the committee shall
27 submit to the president of the university its recommendation for

1 any change to the amount of the fee and a complete and itemized
2 budget for the health and wellness center together with a complete
3 report of all health and wellness center activities conducted
4 during the past year and all expenditures made in connection with
5 those activities. The president shall submit the budget to the
6 board of regents as part of the university's institutional budget.
7 The board of regents may make changes in the budget that the board
8 determines are necessary.

9 SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 55.1723(a), Education Code,
10 is amended to read as follows:

11 (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
12 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston
13 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
14 enlarge, or equip property, buildings, structures, facilities,
15 roads, or related infrastructure for the following institutions to
16 be financed by the issuance of bonds in accordance with this
17 subchapter and in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing
18 program adopted by the board in an aggregate principal amount not to
19 exceed the following amounts:

20 (1) the University of Houston, \$12 million; and

21 (2) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$7.5
22 million[~~, and~~

23 [~~(3) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$10~~
24 ~~million]~~.

25 SECTION 13. AMENDMENT. Section 55.1733(a), Education Code,
26 is amended to read as follows:

27 (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this

1 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston
2 System may issue in accordance with this subchapter and in
3 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
4 the board bonds for the following institutions not to exceed the
5 following aggregate principal amounts to finance projects
6 specified as follows:

7 (1) the University of Houston, \$51 million to
8 construct science and engineering research and classroom
9 facilities;

10 (2) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$18,232,500
11 to construct a classroom building; and

12 (3) the University of Houston--Clear Lake,
13 \$30,918,750 to construct a student services and classroom
14 building[~~, and~~

15 [~~(4) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$2,805,000~~
16 ~~to remodel the University West facility, acquire and renovate a~~
17 ~~facility services building, and renovate and expand a facility for~~
18 ~~the center for community initiatives]~~.

19 SECTION 14. AMENDMENT. Section 55.1753(a), Education Code,
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
22 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston
23 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
24 enlarge, or equip facilities, including roads and related
25 infrastructure, for the following institutions, to be financed
26 through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter
27 and in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program

adopted by the board, in aggregate principal amounts not to exceed the following:

(1) the University of Houston, \$57,600,000 for renovation of science laboratories;

(2) the University of Houston--Clear Lake, \$10,604,808 for Arbor Building renovations and additions; and

(3) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$31,626,000 for a classroom building at Shea Street[~~;~~ and

~~[(4) the University of Houston--Victoria;~~

~~[(A) \$22,900,000 for an academic building at the University of Houston System Center at Sugar Land;~~

~~[(B) \$6,719,400 for regional economic development; and~~

~~[(C) \$1,800,000 for allied health facilities].~~

SECTION 15. AMENDMENT. Section 55.1783(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston 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 or entities, not to exceed the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified, as follows:

(1) the University of Houston:

(A) \$63 million for construction of a health and biomedical sciences center; and

(B) \$54 million for construction of a new academic building located in Sugar Land, Texas;

(2) the University of Houston--Clear Lake:

(A) \$24,624,000 for construction of a health sciences and classroom building located in Pearland, Texas; and

(B) \$54 million for construction of a STEM and classroom building;

(3) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$60 million for construction of a science and technology building;

~~[(4) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$60 million for academic expansion and land acquisition;]~~ and

(4) ~~[(5)]~~ the University of Houston System, \$46,832,000 for land acquisition for construction of a building in the area near Katy, Texas.

SECTION 16. AMENDMENT. Section 55.1793(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston 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,

1 as follows:

2 (1) the University of Houston System, \$59,897,111 for
3 construction of a medical research facility;

4 (2) the University of Houston:

5 (A) \$40 million for construction of the Hobby
6 School of Public Affairs Building;

7 (B) \$52,409,972 for construction of the IDEA Lab;
8 and

9 (C) \$52,409,972 for construction of the Sugar
10 Land Academic Building 2;

11 (3) the University of Houston--Clear Lake,
12 \$44,922,833 for renovation of the Bayou Building, the Delta
13 Building, and the Student Services and Classroom Building; and

14 (4) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$44,922,833
15 for renovation of existing buildings and other campus
16 infrastructure upgrades and for the construction of the Police
17 Department and Criminal Justice Academy Building[~~, and~~

18 [~~(5) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$44,922,833~~
19 ~~for renovation of existing buildings and other campus~~
20 ~~infrastructure upgrades]~~.

21 SECTION 17. AMENDMENT. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education
22 Code, is amended by adding Section 55.17812 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 55.17812. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--VICTORIA. (a) In
24 addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the
25 board of regents of The Texas A&M University System may issue bonds
26 in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a
27 systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board in the

1 aggregate principal amounts not to exceed the amounts previously
2 authorized for the University of Houston--Victoria by Sections
3 55.1723, 55.173, 55.1733, 55.1753, 55.1783, and 55.1793, as those
4 sections existed immediately before this section took effect, less
5 any portion of those amounts for which bonds were issued under those
6 sections for the university before the date this section took
7 effect. Subject to Subsection (d), bonds issued under this section
8 for an amount previously authorized by Section 55.1723, 55.173,
9 55.1733, 55.1753, 55.1783, or 55.1793 may be used only at Texas A&M
10 University--Victoria for the purposes for which the bonds for the
11 University of Houston--Victoria were authorized to be issued under
12 Section 55.1723, 55.173, 55.1733, 55.1753, 55.1783, or 55.1793, as
13 applicable.

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

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

27 (d) Any portion of the proceeds of bonds authorized by this

1 section for one or more specified projects that is not required for
2 the specified projects may be used to renovate existing structures
3 and facilities at the university.

4 SECTION 18. AMENDMENT. Section 62.021(a), Education Code,
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 (a) In each state fiscal year beginning with the state
7 fiscal year ending August 31, 2021, an eligible institution is
8 entitled to receive an amount allocated in accordance with this
9 section from the funds appropriated for that year by Section 17(a),
10 Article VII, Texas Constitution. The comptroller shall distribute
11 funds allocated under this subsection only on presentation of a
12 claim and issuance of a warrant in accordance with Section 403.071,
13 Government Code. An eligible institution may not present a claim to
14 be paid from any funds allocated under this subsection before the
15 delivery of goods or services described in Section 17, Article VII,
16 Texas Constitution, except for the payment of principal or interest
17 on bonds or notes or for a payment for a book or other published
18 library material as authorized by Section 2155.386, Government
19 Code. The allocation of funds under this subsection is made in
20 accordance with an equitable formula consisting of the following
21 elements: space deficit, facilities condition, institutional
22 complexity, and a separate allocation for the Texas State Technical
23 College System. The annual amounts allocated by the formula are as
24 follows:

25 (1) to the following component institutions of the
26 University of North Texas System:

27 (A) \$38,473,304 to the University of North Texas;

(B) \$15,581,837 to the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth; and

(C) \$3,455,644 to the University of North Texas at Dallas;

(2) to the following component institutions of the Texas State University System:

(A) \$13,537,649 to Lamar University;

(B) \$2,630,158 to the Lamar Institute of Technology;

(C) \$1,533,301 to Lamar State College--Orange;

(D) \$2,283,992 to Lamar State College--Port Arthur;

(E) \$18,787,013 to Sam Houston State University;

(F) \$38,741,061 to Texas State University;

(G) \$2,216,640 to Sul Ross State University; and

(H) \$487,157 to Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College;

(3) \$12,072,906 to Texas Southern University;

(4) to the following component institutions of the Texas Tech University System:

(A) \$51,379,461 to Texas Tech University;

(B) \$22,305,642 to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center;

(C) \$6,997,943 to Angelo State University;

(D) \$5,725,243 to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center--El Paso; and

(E) \$5,082,034 to Midwestern State University;

(5) \$14,993,229 to the component institutions of the Texas Woman's University System, allocated as determined by the board of regents of the system;

(6) to the following component institutions of the University of Houston System:

(A) \$56,158,685 to the University of Houston;

(B) ~~[\$3,649,703 to the University of Houston--Victoria;~~

~~[(C)]~~ \$7,959,137 to the University of Houston--Clear Lake; and

(C) ~~[(D)]~~ \$11,155,034 to the University of Houston--Downtown;

(7) to the following component institutions of The Texas A&M University System:

(A) \$11,825,139 to Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi;

(B) \$7,687,534 to Texas A&M International University;

(C) \$9,125,307 to Texas A&M University--Kingsville;

(D) \$7,671,155 to West Texas A&M University;

(E) \$11,459,464 to Texas A&M University--Commerce; ~~and~~

(F) \$2,112,129 to Texas A&M University--Texarkana; and

(G) \$3,649,703 to Texas A&M University--Victoria; and

(8) \$8,662,500 to the Texas State Technical College System Administration and the following component campuses, but not its extension centers or programs:

(A) Texas State Technical College--Harlingen;

(B) Texas State Technical College--Marshall;

(C) Texas State Technical College--West Texas;

(D) Texas State Technical College--Waco;

(E) Texas State Technical College--Fort Bend;

and

(F) Texas State Technical College--North Texas.

SECTION 19. TRANSITION. Not later than June 1, 2025, the University of Houston System and The Texas A&M University System shall enter into a memorandum of understanding relating to the transfer of the administration of the University of Houston-Victoria to The Texas A&M University System. The memorandum of understanding must include a timetable and specific steps and methods for the transfer on September 1, 2025 of all powers, duties, obligations, rights, contracts, leases, records, real or personal property and unspent and unobligated appropriations and other funds relating to the transfer of the University of Houston-Victoria to The Texas A&M University System.

SECTION 20. REPEALER. The following provisions of the Education Code are repealed:

(1) Section 55.173; and

(2) Subchapter G, Chapter 111.

SECTION 21. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.