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S.B. No. 956

Chapter 1213

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment of a law school in the city of Dallas  
3 by the University of North Texas System.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 105.001, Education Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 105.001. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM. The  
8 University of North Texas System is composed of:

- 9 (1) the University of North Texas;
- 10 (2) the University of North Texas Health Science
- 11 Center at Fort Worth; ~~and~~
- 12 (3) the University of North Texas at Dallas; and
- 13 (4) the University of North Texas at Dallas College of
- 14 Law.

15 SECTION 2. Section 105.151, Education Code, is amended by  
16 adding Subsection (c-1) and amending Subsection (d) to read as  
17 follows:

18 (c-1) Venue for a suit filed solely against the University  
19 of North Texas at Dallas College of Law or against officers or  
20 employees of the University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law  
21 is in Dallas County.

22 (d) In case of a conflict between Subsection (a), (b), [~~or~~]  
23 (c), or (c-1) and any other law, Subsection (a), (b), [~~or~~] (c), or  
24 (c-1) controls.

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1 SECTION 3. Subchapter J, Chapter 105, Education Code, is  
2 amended by adding Section 105.502 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 105.502. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM COLLEGE OF  
4 LAW. (a) The board may establish and operate a school of law in  
5 the city of Dallas as a professional school of the University of  
6 North Texas System.

7 (b) In administering the law school, the board may prescribe  
8 courses leading to customary degrees offered at other leading  
9 American schools of law and may award those degrees.

10 (c) Until the University of North Texas at Dallas has been  
11 administered as a general academic teaching institution for five  
12 years, the board shall administer the law school as a professional  
13 school of the system. After that period, the law school shall  
14 become a professional school of the University of North Texas at  
15 Dallas. Until the law school becomes a professional school of the  
16 University of North Texas at Dallas, the law school:

17 (1) is considered an institution of higher education  
18 under Section 61.003 for all purposes under other law; and

19 (2) is entitled to formula funding as if the law school  
20 were a professional school of a general academic teaching  
21 institution.

22 (d) Before the board establishes a law school under this  
23 section, but not later than June 1, 2010, the Texas Higher Education  
24 Coordinating Board shall prepare a feasibility study to determine  
25 the actions the system must take to obtain accreditation of the law  
26 school. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
27 deliver a copy of the study to the chair of each legislative

1 standing committee or subcommittee with jurisdiction over higher  
2 education.

3 (e) The board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and  
4 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this  
5 section.

6 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 61.0665 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0665. STUDY REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF LAW SCHOOLS.

9 (a) The board shall conduct a study to examine the need for and  
10 feasibility of establishing a public law school in areas of the  
11 state where a law school is not located, including the Texas-Mexico  
12 border region. The study shall be conducted using the same criteria  
13 used for determining the need for and feasibility of establishing  
14 the University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law.

15 (b) Not later than November 1, 2010, the board shall report  
16 the results of the study required by Subsection (a) to the governor,  
17 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and  
18 presiding officer of each legislative standing committee with  
19 primary jurisdiction over higher education.

20 (c) This section expires January 31, 2011.

21 SECTION 5. If this Act receives a vote of at least  
22 two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature, the  
23 University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law created under  
24 Section 105.502, Education Code, as added by this Act, is entitled  
25 to participate in the funding provided by Section 17, Article VII,  
26 Texas Constitution.

27 SECTION 6. This Act does not make an appropriation. This

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1 Act takes effect only if a specific appropriation for the  
2 implementation of the Act is provided in a general appropriations  
3 act of the 81st Legislature.

4 SECTION 7. 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, 2009.

David Newkum  
President of the Senate

John Strawn  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 956 passed the Senate on April 15, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 1; May 18, 2009, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 25, 2009, House granted request of the Senate; May 31, 2009, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Patsy Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 956 passed the House, with amendments, on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 108, Nays 35, one present not voting; May 25, 2009, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2009, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 112, Nays 24, one present not voting.

Robert Haney  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

19 JUN '09  
Date

RICK PERRY  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK  
JUN 19 2009

Colby Hunter III