

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a project for the development and implementation of a  
3 nature science curriculum for public school students.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 28.013 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 28.013. NATURE SCIENCE CURRICULUM PROJECT. (a) The  
8 State Board of Education shall assist in developing a nature  
9 science curriculum, in accordance with this section, the following  
10 entities, acting jointly:

11 (1) the Outdoor School at Texas Tech University Center  
12 at Junction;

13 (2) the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and  
14 Math (T-STEM) Center of Texas Tech University; and

15 (3) South Llano River State Park.

16 (b) The nature science curriculum must:

17 (1) be designed for instruction of students in grades  
18 six through 12;

19 (2) provide for grade-level appropriate instruction  
20 in essential knowledge and skills identified by the State Board of  
21 Education under Section 28.002 for:

22 (A) science; and

23 (B) mathematics, social studies, and language  
24 arts, to the extent practicable and relevant to nature science

1 studies;

2 (3) through participation in outdoor experiential  
3 learning projects in state parks, provide for the scientific study  
4 by students of:

5 (A) conservation, wildlife or aquatic biology,  
6 range ecology, or other areas of nature science; and

7 (B) problems affecting nature, such as threats to  
8 the watershed, and possible solutions to those problems; and

9 (4) be designed to:

10 (A) be capable of implementation in any state  
11 park;

12 (B) use state park resources in providing  
13 instruction; and

14 (C) be presented by classroom teachers and state  
15 park employees.

16 (c) The Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math  
17 (T-STEM) Center of Texas Tech University shall make the nature  
18 science curriculum available through the university's Internet  
19 website or through a separate Internet website developed by the  
20 center for that purpose.

21 (d) The Texas Tech University Center at Junction, with  
22 assistance from South Llano River State Park, shall present to  
23 classroom teachers and state park employees staff development  
24 courses in providing instruction in the nature science curriculum.

25 (e) The nature science curriculum project must be  
26 implemented and maintained using money appropriated for those  
27 purposes.

1           SECTION 2. The Texas Tech University Center at Junction,  
2 with assistance from South Llano River State Park, shall present  
3 staff development courses as required by Section 28.013, Education  
4 Code, as added by this Act, beginning September 1, 2008.

5           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Jim Coady

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1700 was passed by the House on April 27, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 133, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Haney  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1700 was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Daisy Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 15 JUN 07

Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
3 PM O'CLOCK

Roger Williams  
Secretary of State