

I am signing this bill, which allows Texas A&M University-Texarkana to offer lower division courses, into law. Notwithstanding the institutions affected by House Bill No. 1566, Senate Bill No. 800 and Senate Bill No. 1652, I believe that if the State of Texas is to improve the quality of its higher education institutions, there must be firm accountability regarding the education which students and taxpayers can expect. Any further increase in the number of institutions will dilute the resources which the state provides to higher education to an unacceptable level.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of June, 2003.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Gwyn Shea
GWYN SHEA
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30 pm O'CLOCK

JUN 21 2003

AN ACT

relating to lower-division and upper-division courses offered by Texas A&M University--Texarkana.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 87.571(a), (b), and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Texas A&M University--Texarkana is a coeducational ~~[upper-level]~~ institution of higher education located in the City of Texarkana. The university is a component 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.

(b) The board has the same powers and duties concerning the university as are conferred on the board by law concerning Texas A&M University. ~~The[, except that the]~~ university may ~~[not]~~ offer lower-division courses, but is not required to do so in any academic year for which the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose ~~[freshman or sophomore programs]~~.

(c) The university may offer lower-division courses on the campus of Texarkana College or in a permanent building located on property acquired by the university for a permanently relocated campus. The university may not offer lower-division courses on the campus of Texarkana College without prior approval from Texarkana College ~~[The university may enter into a partnership agreement with the Texarkana College District in the manner authorized by~~

1 ~~Subchapter N, Chapter 51].~~

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

David Newhall

President of the Senate

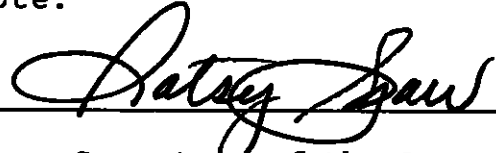
Jim Coadick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1566 was passed by the House on April 10, 2003, by a non-record vote; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1566 on May 29, 2003, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1566 on June 1, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1566 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1566 on June 1, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.



Secretary of the Senate

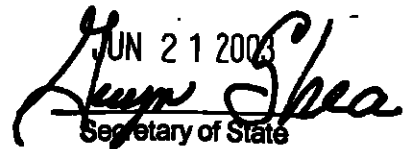
APPROVED: 20 JUN 03

Date



Governor

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SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30pm O'CLOCK

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Secretary of State