

AN ACT

relating to financing authority for certain institutions of higher education for facilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 55.1735, 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 North Texas System may issue in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board bonds for the following institutions not to exceed the following aggregate principal amounts to finance projects specified as follows:

(1) the University of North Texas, \$52,933,750 to construct a science building and to develop the campus and facilities of the University of North Texas System Center at Dallas at the location to become the University of North Texas at Dallas; and

(2) the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, \$27.5 million to construct a biotechnology center and school of public health building.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 55.1744 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.1744. SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL

1 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this  
2 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas State University  
3 System may issue bonds in accordance with this subchapter in the  
4 aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$27 million to finance the  
5 acquisition, purchase, construction, improvement, renovation,  
6 enlargement, or equipping of property, buildings, structures,  
7 facilities, or related infrastructure for a multi-institutional  
8 education center in Williamson County for Southwest Texas State  
9 University to offer educational programs and supporting activities  
10 and provide facilities for other educational entities to further  
11 institutional efficiency and coordinate educational programs.

12 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of those  
13 bonds all or any part of the revenue funds of Southwest Texas State  
14 University, including student tuition charges. The amount of a  
15 pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated  
16 while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to  
17 refund those bonds, are outstanding.

18 SECTION 3. Subsection (e), Section 61.0572, Education Code,  
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 (e) Approval of the board is not required to acquire real  
21 property that is financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)  
22 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, [~~ex~~] 55.174, or 55.1744,  
23 except that the board shall review all real property to be financed  
24 by bonds issued under those sections to determine whether the  
25 property meets the standards adopted by the board for cost,  
26 efficiency, and space use. If the property does not meet those  
27 standards, the board shall notify the governor, the lieutenant

1 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
2 Legislative Budget Board.

3 SECTION 4. Subsection (b), Section 61.058, Education Code,  
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 (b) This section does not apply to construction, repair, or  
6 rehabilitation financed by bonds issued under Section 55.17(e)(3)  
7 or (4), 55.1713-55.1718, 55.1721-55.1728, [~~or~~] 55.174, or 55.1744,  
8 except that the board shall review all construction, repair, or  
9 rehabilitation to be financed by bonds issued under those sections  
10 to determine whether the construction, rehabilitation, or repair  
11 meets the standards adopted by board rule for cost, efficiency, and  
12 space use. If the construction, rehabilitation, or repair does not  
13 meet those standards, the board shall notify the governor, the  
14 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
15 and the Legislative Budget Board.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

David Swisher  
President of the Senate

Jim Caddick  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1297 passed the Senate on May 9, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 0. \_\_\_\_\_

Patsy Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1297 passed the House on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 129, Nays 0, two present not voting. \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Honey  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

20 JUN '03  
Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
9:30 P.M. O'CLOCK

Ann Shea  
JUN 20 2003  
Secretary of State