

- SUBJECT:** Re-designating the UT Health San Antonio campus extension in Laredo
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Murphy, Pacheco, Cortez, Frullo, Muñoz, Ortega, Parker, C. Turner, J. Turner
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — P. King, Raney
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 31 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** None
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code ch. 74, subch. M allows the board of regents of The University of Texas System to exercise any power granted to the board in establishing and operating the campus extension of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in Laredo. It sets out provisions for the extension’s finances, facilities, and supervision by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- DIGEST:** SB 884 would re-designate the Laredo campus extension of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio as a multi-institution center of The University of Texas System. The board of regents of the UT system could assign responsibility for management of the center to a component institution of the system.
- Operating costs of the center would be paid from available funds from any public or private entity. An amount appropriated from the funds established for the component institutions of The University of Texas System could be used to maintain, operate, and conduct health education programs and other related work at the multi-institution center.
- The primary purpose of the multi-institution center would be to host educational activities, conduct and facilitate research, and engage in

community outreach. Component institutions of the system could use the center in accordance with its primary purpose to provide undergraduate and graduate medical and dental education, including residency training programs, and other levels of health education work in collaboration with any public institution of higher education considered appropriate by the board of regents.

Education Code sec. 74.705, a provision subjecting the campus extension to the continuing supervision of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the board's rules, would be repealed.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 884 would help better serve the health care and higher education needs of Laredo and the surrounding region by re-designating the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio campus extension in Laredo as a multi-institution center of the UT system.

The mission of the campus extension in Laredo is not sufficiently being fulfilled. Remote management by UT Health San Antonio has not provided the level of oversight needed for the extension to effectively perform its intended functions, and re-designating the campus as a multi-institution center of the UT system would allow the creation of innovative new programs and efficient management. These changes would provide greater access to training for health care providers and higher education opportunities for residents of Laredo and the surrounding region, who are currently underserved in these areas.

**CRITICS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.