

SUBJECT: Revising classification of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Kuempel, Paul, Bucy, Burns, Burrows, Clardy, Howard, Lalani
0 nays
3 absent — Cole, M. González, Raney

WITNESSES: For — Rolando Salinas, City of Eagle Pass; Jorge Barrera, Eagle Pass Independent School District, Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce and Eagle Pass/Maverick County Economic Development Alliance; Samuel Mijares, Eagle Pass ISD; Ramsey English Cantu, Maverick County

Against — Randa Faseler Schell, Hector Gonzales, Xaviera Haynes, Harry Watkins, Southwest Texas Junior College; Landon Haynes; Joe Moreno (*Registered, but did not testify*: Georgia Bates, City of Uvalde; Bonny Herndon, Employee of Southwest Texas Junior College)

On — Carlos Hernandez, Sul Ross State University

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College should be able to award bachelor's degrees to better serve the growing population in the Middle Rio Grande region.

DIGEST: CSHB 1960 would remove Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College's specification as an upper-level educational center and would establish that the college was an educational center.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.