

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R1869 CLG-D

S.B. 73
By: Truan
Border Affairs
2/16/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, the majority of Texas' university school systems have video teleconferencing technology in place. Small businesses could benefit from the use of this equipment to establish international trade relationships and find innovative ways to conduct business. This bill will require the International Trade and Technology center at the University of Texas-Pan American to develop and implement a video teleconferencing pilot program.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 73 requires the International Trade and Technology center at the University of Texas-Pan American to develop and facilitate a video teleconferencing pilot program to assist small businesses with international trade relationships.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM. Requires the International Trade and Technology Center (center) at the University of Texas-Pan American to develop a video teleconferencing pilot program to assist small businesses in the establishment of international trade relationships. Sets forth guidelines regarding the development of the pilot program relating to usage fees, design, and timetables. Authorizes the center to obtain available federal foundation funds or private funds.

SECTION 2. REPORTS. Requires the center to submit an initial and subsequent report concerning the effectiveness of the pilot program by January 15, 2001, and January 15, 2003, respectively.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999. Requires the center to establish the pilot program required by this Act by January 1, 2000.

SECTION 4. Provides that this Act expires September 1, 2004.

SECTION 5. Emergency clause.