

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R9003 KEL-D

H.B. 1753
By: Gutierrez (Zaffirini)
Education
4/3/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, South Texas Community College (STCC) is the only institution of higher education in Starr County. The nearest four-year university is The University of Texas-Pan American which is 60 miles away. As proposed, H.B. 1753 authorizes the University of Texas-Pan American to establish an upper-division extension campus in Rio Grande City and enter into a partnership agreement with a junior college district for lower-division courses.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 77.12, Education Code, by adding Subsections (d) and (e), to read as follows:

(d) Authorizes the University of Texas--Pan American (university) to enter into a partnership agreement with the South Texas Community College District in the manner authorized by Chapter 51N, providing for the district to offer the lower-division courses required for students admitted to a baccalaureate degree program at the university. Requires the university to provide for students admitted to a baccalaureate degree program who enroll in the community college for lower-division courses under the degree program to transfer automatically to the university on successful completion of the required lower-division course work.

(e) Authorizes the university to establish an extension campus at Rio Grande City to offer the upper-division courses required for students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the university.

SECTION 2. Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, not later than May 31, 2002, to prepare an impact statement examining the initial implementation of this Act and to deliver a copy of the statement to certain persons.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.