

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 910  
By: Gutierrez (Lucio)  
Education  
5/11/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

In 1995, The Texas Legislature established The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health (school) as a part of a rural health initiative to better address rural health needs in the state. Currently, the South Texas Center for Rural Public Health, located in McAllen, is a branch of the school. As a branch of the school, the South Texas Center focuses on programs that assist citizens in the Rio Grande Valley who have historically encountered barriers to health providers and programs because of geographic isolation, economic constraints, or transportation problems. H.B. 910 formally establishes The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center South Texas Center for Rural Public Health to deliver health education outreach programs, deliver and provide community based instructional sites for the education of public health professionals, and address the need to overcome the limited access of rural residents to public health professionals.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

H.B. 910 amends the Education Code to require the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System (board) to establish The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center South Texas Center for Rural Public Health (center). The bill requires the center to develop and provide community-based instructional sites for the education of public health professionals and the delivery of health education outreach programs. The bill sets forth provisions for the participation of other institutions in the center's programs, the location of the center's educational facilities, and affiliation or coordination agreements regarding the establishment and operation of the center. H.B. 910 requires the board to assign responsibility for the management of the center to The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, and provides for the payment of the operating costs of the center. The center may be used to provide public health graduate education or other levels of health education in the area served by the center in connection with any component institutions of The Texas A&M University System (system). The bill authorizes the center, in providing education, to use community outreach programs to provide persons receiving education at the center with any necessary experience, and to conduct certain research programs. H.B. 910 sets forth that the board is required to implement the center only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If such money is appropriated, the system is required to establish and operate the center not later than January 1 of the first state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made. The bill also requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to prepare not later than August 31, 2002, an impact statement examining the initial implementation of this Act and deliver it to the board of regents of the system and both houses of the legislature.

Effective date: September 1, 2001.