

constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on April 24, 1997, by a viva-voce vote; the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 28, 1997, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House, with amendments, on May 25, 1997, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 16, 1997.

Effective September 1, 1997, except as provided in § 5.02(b).

CHAPTER 672

S.B. No. 606

AN ACT

relating to the establishment and operation of a regional academic health center by The University of Texas System.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 74, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L. LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER

Sec. 74.611. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH OR PARTICIPATE IN CENTER. (a) The board of regents of The University of Texas System may establish a regional academic health center serving Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties, and may include any medical institutions for participation in the program in the aforementioned counties, if general revenue funds are specifically appropriated by the legislature for that purpose. The center may consist of facilities located throughout the region. The board may execute and carry out affiliation or coordination agreements with any other entity or institution in the region to establish or to participate in the establishment or operation of the center, which includes all traditional and all other providers of health services to the counties listed in this subsection.

(b) The board of regents may assign responsibility for the management of the regional academic health center to any component institution or institutions of The University of Texas System. The operating costs of the regional academic health center shall be paid from operating funds of the component institution and from available funds of any other public or private entity.

(c) The regional academic health center may be used to provide undergraduate clinical education, graduate education, including residency training programs, or other levels of medical education work in the counties identified in Subsection (a) in connection with any component institution or institutions of The University of Texas System as the board of regents determines appropriate.

Sec. 74.612. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board of regents may accept and administer gifts and grants from any public or private person or entity for the use and benefit of the regional academic health center.

Sec. 74.613. FACILITIES. The physical facilities of the regional academic health center used in its teaching and research programs, including libraries, auditoriums, research facilities, and medical education buildings, may be provided by a public or private entity. A physical facility may be constructed, maintained, or operated with state money appropriated for that purpose.

Sec. 74.614. TEACHING HOSPITAL. A teaching hospital considered suitable by the board of regents may be provided by a public or private entity. The hospital may not be constructed, maintained, or operated with state funds.

Sec. 74.615. COORDINATING BOARD SUPERVISION. The regional academic health center is subject to the continuing supervision of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Chapter 61 and to the rules of the coordinating board adopted under Chapter 61.

SECTION 2. Not later than May 31, 1998, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall prepare an impact statement examining the initial implementation of this Act and shall deliver a copy of the statement to the board of regents of The University of Texas System and to the chairs of the standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher education.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on April 15, 1997, by a viva-voce vote; May 13, 1997, Senate refused to concur in House amendment and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 14, 1997, House granted request of the Senate; May 24, 1997, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendment, on May 7, 1997, by a non-record vote; May 14, 1997, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 24, 1997, House adopted Conference Committee Report by a non-record vote.

Approved June 16, 1997.

Effective September 1, 1997.

CHAPTER 673

H.B. No. 66

AN ACT

relating to unfunded state mandates on political subdivisions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 3, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 320 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 320. UNFUNDED MANDATES ON POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Sec. 320.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Interagency work group" means the unfunded mandates interagency work group.

(2) "State mandate" means a requirement made by a statute enacted by the legislature on or after January 1, 1997, that requires a political subdivision to establish, expand, or modify an activity in a way that requires the expenditure of revenue by the political subdivision that would not have been required in the absence of the statutory provision.

Sec. 320.002. UNFUNDED MANDATES INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP. (a) The unfunded mandates interagency work group consists of:

(1) the state auditor;

(2) the director of the Legislative Budget Board;

(3) the comptroller;

(4) a senator appointed by the lieutenant governor; and

(5) a house member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.