

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1562
By: Frullo
Appropriations
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Constitutional provisions relating to the higher education fund authorize periodic reallocations of fund distributions. Based on consultations with certain institutions of higher education, C.S.H.B. 1562 seeks to implement recommendations by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding the use of the fund by reallocating distributions beginning with the 2021 fiscal year and making certain other updates.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1562 amends the Education Code to increase, for each state fiscal year beginning with the 2021 state fiscal year, the annual amounts allocated to certain public institutions and agencies of higher education from the higher education fund to the amounts specified by the bill for each institution. The bill expressly sets an expiration date of September 1, 2020, for the annual amounts allocated to the applicable institutions and agencies from the fund for each state fiscal year beginning with the 2017 state fiscal year. The bill, beginning with the 2020 state fiscal year and with continuing applicability in each state fiscal year beginning with the 2021 state fiscal year, removes from the allocation to the University of North Texas at Dallas an amount specifically attributable to the University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law and includes Texas State Technical College--Fort Bend and Texas State Technical College--North Texas among the component campuses of the Texas State Technical College System to which a part of that system's allocation is attributable.

C.S.H.B. 1562 removes the prior approval of the legislature and the approval, review, or endorsement, as applicable, of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as conditions on the authority of each governing board participating in the distribution of funds from the higher education fund to expend those funds for new construction, land acquisition projects, and major repair and rehabilitation projects in excess of \$600,000. The bill specifies that the purposes for which a governing board may expend the funds include purchasing or contracting for cloud computing services or other intangible assets with an expected useful life or for a contract period of more than one year.

C.S.H.B. 1562 repeals Sections 62.021(a-2) and (f), Education Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 31, 2019.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

C.S.H.B. 1562 differs from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways by removing an obsolete statutory reference and by conforming to certain bill drafting conventions.