

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1874
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Education
5/11/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, the International Trade and Technology Center at the University of Texas--Pan American, does not operate a video conferencing program. H.B. 1874 sets forth provisions regarding the operation and administration of a small business video conferencing pilot project.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1874 sets forth provisions regarding the operation and administration of a small business video conferencing pilot project.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 77.15(a), Education Code, to delete text regarding land contiguous or adjacent to the main campus of The University of Texas--Pan American.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 77B, Education Code, by adding Section 77.16, as follows:

Sec. 77.16. SMALL BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCING PILOT PROJECT. Requires the International Trade and Technology Center (center) at the University of Texas--Pan American to develop and implement a video conferencing pilot program designed to assist small businesses in establishing international trade relationships by allowing the businesses access to certain video conferencing facilities for a fee. Sets forth requirements for the development of the project. Authorizes the center to solicit and accept gifts and grants from any source to cover the cost of administering the project. Sets forth provisions regarding submission of initial and final reports to the governor and the legislature. Provides that this section expires September 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. (a) Effective date: September 1, 1999.

(b) Requires the center to establish a pilot project as described by Section 77.16, Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2000.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.