

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R11007 JSA-D

H.B. 1799
By: Villarreal, Mike (Shapleigh)
Education
5/1/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is no single cohesive long-range statewide plan that addresses the higher education needs of each region of the state of Texas. The study of the variance of services, resources, and demographics throughout the state might help to provide higher education services that meet each region's needs. H.B. 1799 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to complete a periodic comprehensive statewide plan that provides information and guidance to policymakers to ensure the current and future needs for adequate higher education services are met in each region of this state.

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 61.051, Education Code, by adding Subsection (i), as follows:

(i) Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (board) to develop and periodically revise a long-range statewide plan to provide information and guidance to policy makers to ensure that institutions of higher education meet the current and future needs of each region of this state for higher education services and that adequate higher education services at all levels are reasonably and equally available to the residents of each region of this state. Requires the board in developing the plan to examine existing undergraduate, graduate, professional, and research programs provided by institutions of higher education and identify the geographic areas of this state that, as a result of current population or projected population growth, distance from other educational resources, economic trends, or other factors, have or are reasonably likely to have in the future significantly greater need for higher education services than the services currently provided in the area by existing institutions of higher education. Requires the board to also consider the higher education services provided by private and independent institutions of higher education in developing the plan. Requires the board to identify as specifically as practicable the programs or fields of study for which an area has or is projected to have a significant unmet need for services. Requires the board, in determining the need for higher educational services in an area, to consider the educational attainment of the current population and the extent to which residents from the area attend institutions of higher education outside of the area or do not attend institutions of higher education. Requires the board to include in the plan specific recommendations, including alternative recommendations, for administrative or legislative action to address an area's unmet need for higher educational services as efficiently as possible. Requires the board, not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year, to deliver to the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature a report of the current long-range plan developed under this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.