

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R9110 JSA-D

H.B. 323
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Education
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under current law, a center for border economic and enterprise development (center) has been established at Texas A&M International University, The University of Texas-Pan American, and The University of Texas at El Paso. The centers develop and maintain an economic database, conduct economic developmental research and planning, and provide technical assistance to industrial and governmental entities. Because of Brownsville's proximity to the border and its economic interdependence with the city of Matamoros and northeastern Mexico, The University of Texas at Brownsville is in a strategic position to research and collect data on border affairs. H.B. 323 creates a center for border economic and enterprise development at The University of Texas at Brownsville.

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 Chapter 78, Education Code, by adding Section 78.09, as follows:

Sec. 78.09. CENTER FOR BORDER ECONOMIC AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT. (a) Requires the board of regents of The University of Texas System (board) to establish a center for border economic and enterprise development at The University of Texas at Brownsville.

(b) Authorizes the center established under this section to carry out certain duties.

(c) Authorizes the center to offer seminars and conduct conferences and other educational programs concerning the Texas-Mexico border economy and economic and enterprise development within the state.

(d) Authorizes the board to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations to aid in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the center.

(e) Requires the center established under this section to cooperate fully with similar programs operated by Texas A&M International University, The University of Texas--Pan American, The University of Texas at El Paso, and other institutions of higher education.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 69.22(e), Education Code, to add a reference to The University of Texas at Brownsville.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 77.36(e), Education Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 87.504(e), Education Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 5. Requires the board of regents of The University of Texas System to establish a center for border economic and enterprise development at The University of Texas at Brownsville under Section 78.09, Education Code, as added by this Act, at the time determined appropriate by the board of regents considering the money available for that purpose and the best interests of the university. Authorizes, but does not require the board of regents to, establish the center using appropriations or money available for that purpose, including gifts, grants, and donations.

SECTION 6. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.