

SUBJECT: Creating the East Williamson County Multi-Institution Teaching Center

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Morrison, F. Brown, Alonzo, Aycock, D. Howard, Patrick, Rose

0 nays

2 absent — McCall, Giddings

WITNESSES: For — Jim Aanstoos, Sally Velasquez, Hutto Economic Development Corporation; David P. Borrer, Hutto ISD; Chuck S. McCarter, Temple College, East Williamson County Higher Education Center; John Nelson, Taylor Economic Development Corp.; Bruce Scott, Taylor Independent School District; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jesse Ancera, Jr.; Jone Clarke; Jim D. Dunaway; Debbie Holland, Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto; Ella Jez, Taylor City Council; Jean Johnson; Shanta Kahl, Taylor Chamber of Commerce, East Williamson County Higher Education; Kenneth L. Love; Robert Rhodes; Mark Smith)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: James Goeman, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; David Rejino, the Texas A&M University System)

BACKGROUND: Education Code, sec. 87.861(d) prohibits Texas A&M University - Central Texas from operating as a general academic teaching institution until the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board certifies that enrollment at Tarleton State University System Center -- Central Texas in Killeen has reached 1,000 full-time student equivalents for one semester. Ch. 130 governs junior college districts.

There is currently not an educational center in East Williamson County for workforce development where residents can gain skills and knowledge needed to respond to employer and industry needs.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 2074 would require the board of trustees of the Temple Junior College District to enter into a formal agreement to create and operate the East Williamson County Multi-Institutional Teaching Center (MITC), in partnership with at least one of the following institutions: Tarleton State University, Tarleton State University System Center -- Central Texas, Texas State Technical College -- Waco, or another public or private institution.

The MITC would have to provide coordinated opportunities to the residents of the region by offering academic credit courses and programs from the member institutions and work with the community to identify and offer courses that would meet educational and workforce development goals for the region.

All member institutions of the MITC would be authorized to make provisions for adequate physical facilities, which might include any grants, gifts, or donations that might be received.

The bill would allow Tarleton State University System Center -- Central Texas to include courses conducted by its faculty at the proposed MITC in the calculation of full-time student enrollment equivalents required for recognition as a stand-alone general academic teaching institution.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

**NOTES:** According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would cost \$1.24 million in 2010, \$1.46 million in 2011 and \$1.72 million in 2012 in general revenue related funds.