

SUBJECT: Expanding the former student association space at Texas A&M

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Morrison, McCall, F. Brown, Alonzo, Aycock, Patrick, Rose
0 nays
2 absent — Giddings, D. Howard

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — Michael O’Quinn, Texas A&M University

BACKGROUND: Education Code, sec. 85.25 gives the Texas A&M University board of regents the sole exclusive management and control of lands and mineral leases under its jurisdiction and that may be acquired by it. Sec. 85.25(c)(2) authorizes the board to grant the Former Students Association of Texas A&M University a lease of surface area of five acres or less on the original main campus for use by the association to construct and occupy a building for use consistent with the association’s stated purpose.

DIGEST: HB 2834 would amend Sec. 85.25(c)(2) to authorize the board of regents to grant the Texas A&M Former Students Association a lease of surface area not to exceed eight acres — rather than five — on the original main campus for use by the association to construct and occupy a building.

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.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 2834 would grant the Texas A&M Former Students Association more land to account for its growth in membership and the scale of activities it oversees. The association currently leases five acres of land from the university that contains a building, parking, and an outside area that is used by the alumni staff and former students. Since the current building

was dedicated in 1987, the association staff has doubled, and the number of former students has nearly tripled, creating the need for additional space. The extra three acres would accommodate the construction of a new building, expanded parking, and other enhanced services for Texas A&M University and alumni. In addition the additional space would house a new plaza for use in the Aggie Ring ceremony, which is held several times a year for hundreds of students and alumni.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

HB 2834 was withdrawn from the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and transferred to the Calendars Committee.