SECTION 3. Section 1043.108, Special District Local Laws Code, as effective April 1, 2009, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1043.108. PROPERTY, FACILITIES, AND EQUIPMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS [STAFF PHYSICIANS]. (a) The board shall determine the type, number, and location of buildings required to establish and maintain office facilities for health care providers [staff physicians] as necessary to provide adequate health [medical] care services.

(b) The board may:

(1) acquire property, including equipment, and construct facilities for the district for use by health care providers [staff physicians]; and

(2) mortgage or pledge the property or facilities as security for the payment of the purchase or construction price.

(c) The board for the district may:

(1) lease the office facilities and equipment to health care providers [staff physicians]; and

(2) sell or otherwise dispose of the property, including facilities and equipment.

SECTION 4. Section 1043.152(c), Special District Local Laws Code, as effective April 1, 2009, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Any district resident [taxpayer] is entitled to:

(1) appear at the time and place designated in the notice; and

(2) be heard regarding any item included in the proposed budget.

SECTION 5. Section 1043.154(b), Special District Local Laws Code, as effective April 1, 2009, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Not later than December 31 each year, the audit shall be filed;

[(1) with the comptroller; and]

[(2) at the district office.]

SECTION 6. Section 1043.059(e), Special District Local Laws Code, as effective April 1, 2009, is repealed.

SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 22, 2009: Yeas 149, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 21, 2009: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 1012

H.B. No. 4149

AN ACT
relating to certain studies and reports by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding achievable cost-saving measures and the use and availability of electronic textbooks at institutions of higher education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0664 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0664. STUDY OF ACHIEVABLE COST-SAVING MEASURES; REPORT. (a) The board shall conduct a study to identify achievable cost-saving measures in the management and operation of institutions of higher education.
(b) Not later than January 31, 2011, the board shall report the results of the study required by Subsection (a) to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding officer for each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education. The report must include:

(1) the board’s recommendations concerning cost-saving measures that are achievable at institutions of higher education; and

(2) an estimate of the amount of money that would be saved during a five-year period through the implementation of each recommendation.

(c) This section expires January 31, 2011.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0665 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0665. STUDY ON USE AND AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS. (a) The board shall conduct a study and recommend policies regarding the use and availability of electronic textbooks in higher education in this state and in other states. The study and policy recommendations must include a specific focus on the results of the pilot program implemented by The University of Texas at Austin with respect to the use of electronic textbooks and must address methods for encouraging the use of electronic textbooks at public or private institutions of higher education in this state.

(b) Each student regent serving under Section 51.355 or 51.356 shall assist the board in performing the board’s duties under Subsection (a). The board shall establish procedures to assist a student regent in complying with this subsection.

(c) The board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or private source to conduct the study and develop policy recommendations under this section.

(d) Not later than December 1, 2010, the board shall make an initial report and recommendations based on the study to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding officer of each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education. This subsection expires January 31, 2011.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4149 on May 23, 2009: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 1013

H.B. No. 4152

AN ACT

relating to certification of an educator in Texas who is certified in another state or country.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 21.052, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who applies for a certificate and:

(1) holds:

(A) a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board; or

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