

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 606
By: Lucio
Finance
2-27-97
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, there is no organized tax-based funding of indigent care in the Rio Grande Valley. Population in four counties of the Lower Rio Grande Valley is approaching 900,000. Local health departments and state regional health offices have been asked to absorb indigent patient care, or it is absorbed in the form of inflated costs associated with emergency room drop-ins. This bill provides for the creation of the Regional Academic Health Center, which would provide much needed medical care and fulfill the increased demand for primary care physicians.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 606 authorizes the University of Texas System to establish the Regional Academic Health Center in the four-county of the Lower Rio Grande Valley area.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 74, Education Code, by adding Sections 74.701 through 74.705, as follows:

Sec. 74.701. ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCATION; NAME; SCOPE. Authorizes the board of regents of the University of Texas System (board) to establish the Regional Academic Health Center (center) and carry out agreements for the center in the four-county Lower Rio Grande Valley area, to provide clinical, postgraduate, or other levels of medical professional education. Authorizes the board to assign responsibility for management of the center to any University of Texas component health institution.

Sec. 74.702. PHYSICAL FACILITIES. Authorizes the board to make physical facilities available for use by the center in its teaching and research programs. Sets forth sources of funds for the physical facilities.

Sec. 74.703. GRANTS GIFTS. Authorizes the board to accept grants and gifts for the center.

Sec. 74.704. TEACHING HOSPITAL. Requires a teaching hospital to be furnished for the center at no cost to the state. Prohibits the state from contributing funds for construction, maintenance, or operation of a teaching hospital for the center.

Sec. 74.705. SUPERVISION BY THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD. Provides that the center is subject to the continuing supervision of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as provided in Chapter 61, Education Code.