

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R396 JSA-D

S.B. 599
By: Shapleigh
Education
3/28/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Part of the mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is to develop and adopt a long-range statewide plan that addresses the needs of higher education. Currently, the state is experiencing a very high population growth in the urban and border regions of the state. The future economic development of the state depends in large part on the education of the population. As proposed, S.B. 599 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to complete periodic comprehensive statewide higher education plans that provide information and guidance to policy makers. These plans, due in November of each even-numbered year, will examine current services to the residents of each region of the state and propose recommendations to address the needs of these populations.

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 Section 61.051, Education Code, by adding Subsection (i), as follows:

(i) Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (board) to develop and periodically revise a statewide plan to provide information and guidance to policy makers to ensure that institutions of higher education meet the current and future needs of each region of this state for higher education services and that adequate higher education services at all levels are reasonably and equally available to the residents of each region of this state. Requires the board, in developing the plan, to examine existing undergraduate, graduate, professional, and research programs provided by institutions of higher education (institutions) and identify the geographic areas of this state that, as a result of current populations or projected population growth, distance from other educational resources, economic trends, or other factors, have or are reasonably likely to have in the future significantly greater need for higher education services than the services currently provided in the area by existing institutions. Requires the board to identify as specifically as practicable the programs or fields of study for which an area has or is projected to have a significant unmet need for services. Requires the board to consider the educational attainment of the current population and the extent to which residents from the area attend institutions outside of the area or do not attend institutions, in determining the need for higher educational services in the area. Requires the board to include in the plan specific recommendations, including alternative recommendations, for administrative or legislative action to address an area's unmet need for higher educational services as efficiently as possible. Requires the board to deliver to the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature a report of the current long-range plan developed under this section, not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.