

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.J.R. 44
By: Duncan
Finance
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the \$8.5 billion Permanent University Fund (PUF) is projected to generate approximately \$740 million for the coming biennium. This represents an \$87 million increase over the previous biennium. Available University Fund (AUF) money must first be used to fund administrative expenses and is then allocated by giving two-thirds of the money to The University of Texas System (UT System) and one-third to The Texas A&M University System. From the AUF, the university systems must first pay service debts on capital projects funded with PUF bonds and the remaining amount may be used to provide funding for “excellence programs” exclusively at the flagship campuses and for system administration. As proposed, S.J.R. 44 provides the UT System with greater flexibility to direct “excellence funds” to all of its general academic institutions eligible for AUF funding, for the purpose of enhancing programs aimed at elevating schools to Tier I status.

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 Sections 18(f), Article VII, Texas Constitution, to add The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, The University of Texas at San Antonio, and The University of Texas at Tyler to the list of schools which receive funds from the available university fund for support and maintenance of the schools.

SECTION 2. Requires that this constitutional amendment be put before the voters in an election on November 6, 2001. Requires the ballot be printed to permit a person to vote for or against the proposition and sets forth specific wording to be contained on the ballot.