

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R10613 KSD-D

C.S.H.B. 495
By: Miller (Fraser)
S/C on Higher Education
5/18/2005
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Current Texas law under the Education Code requires that the Tarleton State University System Center (university) in Killeen achieve 2,500 full-time students before becoming a stand-alone institution.

During the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, the state's first university system center was enacted by S.B. 572, since there were no public upper-level higher education opportunities within a one-hour drive of Bell County. By the spring of 2004, the university enrolled 1,983 students, an increase of 56 percent since the opening in the fall of 1999.

C.S.H.B. 495 expedites the opening of Texas A&M University-Central Texas by lowering the threshold of full-time students necessary to achieve stand-alone 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 Section 87.861, Education Code, as follows:

(d) Prohibits Texas A&M University--Central Texas, notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, from operating as a general academic teaching institution until the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) certifies that enrollment at the Tarleton State University System Center-Central Texas in Killeen has reached an enrollment equivalent of:

(1) 1,000 full-time students for one semester if the legislature authorizes revenue bonds to be issued to finance educational and related facilities for the institution, and bonds are issued for that purpose; or

(2) 2,500 full-time students for one semester if the conditions specified by Subdivision (1) are not satisfied.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.