

By: Branch

H.B. No. 51

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1

AN ACT

2 relating to funding and other measures to support emerging public  
3 research universities in developing and maintaining programs of the  
4 highest tier.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 61.059, Education Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subsection (n) to read as follows:

8 (n) In addition to the other funding recommendations  
9 required by this section, biennially the board shall determine the  
10 amount that the board considers appropriate to adequately fund the  
11 programs authorized by Section 61.0593 in the following state  
12 fiscal biennium to carry out the purposes of that section and shall  
13 make recommendations to the governor and the Legislative Budget  
14 Board for funding those programs in that biennium.

15 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
16 amended by adding Section 61.0593 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 61.0593. RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. (a)  
18 In this section, "emerging research university" means an  
19 institution of higher education that the board determines:

20 (1) is a research university as that term is commonly  
21 used in classifying or ranking institutions of higher education;  
22 and

23 (2) has demonstrated a commitment to developing and  
24 maintaining degree and research programs that support the mission

1 of the institution and the institution's efforts to improve its  
2 ranking among research universities.

3 (b) To enable emerging research universities to attract and  
4 retain the most capable students, faculty, and researchers,  
5 maintain a highly trained and dynamic workforce, obtain financial  
6 support for research and development, promote technology transfer  
7 and innovation in order to contribute to this state's  
8 competitiveness in the global economy, and develop and maintain  
9 relevant degree and research programs that are comparable in  
10 quality to similar programs at research universities of the highest  
11 tier, the board shall administer a program to provide funding and  
12 other assistance to emerging research universities.

13 (c) From money available for the purpose, the board may  
14 award a grant to an emerging research university:

15 (1) to match money the university receives in  
16 connection with a major research grant;

17 (2) to match money the university commits to the  
18 recruitment or retention of faculty or research staff who have been  
19 recognized for professional excellence; and

20 (3) to match gifts or grants made or pledged to the  
21 university that the board determines will be used to promote other  
22 purposes of this section.

23 (d) From money available for the purpose, the board may  
24 award a matching grant to an emerging research university to  
25 support any of the following activities to the extent the board  
26 determines the activity promotes the purposes of this section:

27 (1) merit-based scholarships or other merit-based

1 financial aid for undergraduate students;

2 (2) graduate student fellowships;

3 (3) faculty professorships and chairs;

4 (4) research support, including the acquisition and  
5 maintenance of research facilities, infrastructure, and equipment;

6 (5) efforts to recruit and retain at-risk  
7 undergraduate students; and

8 (6) efforts to recruit and train students in fields  
9 for which the state or local workforce has a critical need.

10 (e) In awarding a matching grant to a university under this  
11 section, the board may provide state money only to match money  
12 available to the university obtained or pledged from private or  
13 community sources, including gifts and grants, or from other  
14 nontraditional or alternative sources.

15 (f) In awarding a grant under this section, the board shall  
16 consider:

17 (1) the demonstrated commitment of the university to  
18 undergraduate research education;

19 (2) the amount of research funding the institution has  
20 obtained or committed annually per full-time faculty member;

21 (3) the professional achievements and recognition of  
22 the institution's faculty, including election to a national  
23 academy;

24 (4) the demonstrated commitment and success of the  
25 university in developing and maintaining degree and research  
26 programs described by Subsection (b);

27 (5) the level of community support for the

1 university's efforts to develop and maintain such programs; and

2 (6) the relative contribution the grant is likely to  
3 make in carrying out the purposes of this section.

4 (g) In addition to funding under this section, the board  
5 shall provide leadership and other resources as the board considers  
6 appropriate to assist emerging research institutions in this state  
7 to carry out the purposes of this section.

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