

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a geriatric education and care research center at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter K, Chapter 74, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 74.604 to read as follows:

Sec. 74.604. EAST TEXAS CENTER FOR RURAL GERIATRIC STUDIES.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Board" means the board of regents of The University of Texas System.

(2) "Center" means the East Texas Center for Rural Geriatric Studies.

(b) The board may establish the East Texas Center for Rural Geriatric Studies at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler for purposes of:

(1) researching issues in geriatrics, gerontology, and long-term care for the elderly, with an emphasis on the elderly living in rural and nonmetropolitan areas; and

(2) providing related resources in East Texas and other rural areas in this state for training and research for:

(A) professionals in medicine, including psychiatry, and in nursing, pharmacy, and allied health fields who provide health care to the elderly;

1 (B) caregivers and advocates for the elderly; and
2 (C) individuals employed by agencies that
3 provide services to the elderly.

4 (c) The organization, control, and oversight of the center
5 are vested in the board.

6 (d) If the board establishes the center, the board shall:

7 (1) provide for the employment of staff and an
8 operating budget for the center; and

9 (2) select a site for the center at The University of
10 Texas Health Science Center at Tyler.

11 (e) The center may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and
12 grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of
13 the center.

14 (f) Establishment of the center is subject to the
15 availability of federal funding, gifts, grants, or other funding
16 for that purpose.

17 (g) An employee of the center is an employee of The
18 University of Texas System.

19 (h) The center may enter into an agreement with a public or
20 private entity to operate or participate in the operation of the
21 center.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

S.B. No. 1642

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1642 passed the Senate on May 6, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1642 passed the House on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor