

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 150

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects at public institutions of higher education; making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 55, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 55.1781, 55.1782, 55.1783, 55.1784, 55.1785, 55.1786, 55.1787, 55.1788, 55.1789, 55.17891, and 55.17892 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.1781. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified, as follows:

(1) Texas A&M University--Commerce, \$40,500,000 for construction of a nursing and health sciences building;

(2) Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, \$67,500,000 for construction of a life sciences research and engineering building;

1 (3) Texas A&M University--Kingsville, \$57,825,000 for
2 construction of a music building;

3 (4) Texas A&M University--Texarkana, \$30,000,000 for
4 construction of an academic and student services building;

5 (5) West Texas A&M University:

6 (A) \$7,500,000 for renovation of the Amarillo
7 Center; and

8 (B) \$32,250,000 for construction of an
9 agricultural sciences complex;

10 (6) The Texas A&M University System Health Science
11 Center:

12 (A) \$60,000,000 for construction of a
13 multidisciplinary research and education facility in Bryan, Texas;
14 and

15 (B) \$67,500,000 for construction of a dental
16 clinic facility at the Baylor College of Dentistry;

17 (7) Texas A&M International University, \$41,698,125
18 for construction of an academic and laboratory building;

19 (8) Prairie View A&M University, \$11,250,000 for
20 construction of a fabrication center;

21 (9) Tarleton State University:

22 (A) \$56,250,000 for construction of an applied
23 sciences building; and

24 (B) \$41,250,000 for construction of a southwest
25 metroplex building for the campus in Midlothian;

26 (10) Texas A&M University, \$63,750,000 for
27 construction of a biocontainment research facility;

1 (11) Texas A&M University at Galveston, \$62,250,000
2 for expansion of an instructional and teaching laboratory;

3 (12) Texas A&M University--Central Texas, \$30,000,000
4 for construction of a multipurpose building; and

5 (13) Texas A&M University--San Antonio, \$52,500,000
6 for construction of a science and technology building and
7 infrastructure for campus development.

8 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
9 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
10 an institution, branch, or entity of The Texas A&M University
11 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
12 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
13 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
14 bonds, are outstanding.

15 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
16 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer
17 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of The Texas A&M
18 University System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
19 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
20 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

21 Sec. 55.1782. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
22 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
23 subchapter, the board of regents of The University of Texas System
24 may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or
25 equip property and facilities, including roads and related
26 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of
27 bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in accordance with a

1 systemwide revenue financing program adopted by the board for the
2 following institutions, not to exceed the following aggregate
3 principal amounts for the projects specified, as follows:

4 (1) The University of Texas at Austin, \$67,500,000 for
5 renovation of Robert A. Welch Hall;

6 (2) The University of Texas--Rio Grande Valley:

7 (A) \$37,950,000 for construction of a
8 multipurpose academic center at the campus in Brownsville; and

9 (B) \$31,875,000 for construction of an
10 interdisciplinary engineering and academic studies building at the
11 campus in Edinburg;

12 (3) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
13 Center at Dallas, \$67,500,000 for the construction and renovation
14 of a vivarium and academic and laboratory facilities;

15 (4) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
16 San Antonio, \$67,500,000 for the renovation of a medical and dental
17 education building and the School of Nursing;

18 (5) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer
19 Center, \$52,500,000 for construction of the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan
20 Al Nahyan building;

21 (6) The University of Texas Medical Branch at
22 Galveston, \$50,850,000 for construction of a health education
23 center;

24 (7) The University of Texas at Arlington, \$67,500,000
25 for construction of a science and engineering innovation and
26 research building;

27 (8) The University of Texas at Dallas, \$67,500,000 for

1 construction of an engineering building;

2 (9) The University of Texas at El Paso, \$67,500,000
3 for construction of an interdisciplinary research facility;

4 (10) The University of Texas at San Antonio,
5 \$67,500,000 for construction of an instructional science and
6 engineering building;

7 (11) The University of Texas at Tyler, \$57,000,000 for
8 construction of a STEM building;

9 (12) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
10 Houston, \$67,500,000 for the renovation and modernization of a
11 medical school building, the School of Public Health, and
12 University Center Tower;

13 (13) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
14 Tyler, \$11,250,000 for the renovation of a facility for physician
15 residents training; and

16 (14) The University of Texas of the Permian Basin,
17 \$45,000,000 for construction of an engineering building.

18 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
19 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
20 an institution, branch, or entity of The University of Texas
21 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
22 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
23 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
24 bonds, are outstanding.

25 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
26 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer
27 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of The University

1 of Texas System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
2 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
3 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

4 Sec. 55.1783. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
5 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
6 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of Houston
7 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
8 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
9 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
10 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
11 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
12 the board for the following institutions or entities, not to exceed
13 the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects
14 specified, as follows:

15 (1) the University of Houston:

16 (A) \$90,000,000 for construction of a health and
17 biomedical sciences center; and

18 (B) \$45,000,000 for construction of a new
19 academic building located in Sugar Land, Texas;

20 (2) the University of Houston--Clear Lake:

21 (A) \$17,100,000 for construction of a health
22 sciences and classroom building located in Pearland, Texas; and

23 (B) \$76,050,000 for construction of a STEM and
24 classroom building;

25 (3) the University of Houston--Downtown, \$67,500,000
26 for construction of a science and technology building;

27 (4) the University of Houston--Victoria, \$64,065,000

1 for construction of a science, technology, and classroom building;
2 and

3 (5) the University of Houston System, \$27,405,000 for
4 construction of a Cinco Ranch building located in the area near
5 Katy, Texas.

6 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
7 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
8 an institution, branch, or entity of the University of Houston
9 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
10 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
11 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
12 bonds, are outstanding.

13 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
14 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer
15 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the University
16 of Houston System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
17 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
18 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

19 Sec. 55.1784. TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
20 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
21 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas State University
22 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
23 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
24 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
25 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
26 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
27 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the

1 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
2 as follows:

3 (1) Lamar University, \$54,000,000 for construction of
4 a science and technology building;

5 (2) Lamar State College--Orange, \$9,375,000 for
6 construction of a multipurpose education building;

7 (3) Lamar State College--Port Arthur, \$7,200,000 for
8 expansion of technology program facilities;

9 (4) Lamar Institute of Technology, \$6,480,000 for
10 renovation of the technical arts buildings;

11 (5) Texas State University:

12 (A) \$67,500,000 for construction of an
13 engineering and sciences building; and

14 (B) \$50,625,000 for construction of a health
15 professions building in Round Rock, Texas;

16 (6) Sam Houston State University, \$45,000,000 for
17 construction of a biology laboratory building; and

18 (7) Sul Ross State University, \$5,850,000 for
19 renovation and modernization of educational and related facilities
20 and infrastructure.

21 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
22 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
23 an institution, branch, or entity of the Texas State University
24 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
25 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
26 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
27 bonds, are outstanding.

1 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
2 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer
3 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the Texas State
4 University System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
5 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
6 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

7 Sec. 55.1785. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
8 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
9 subchapter, the board of regents of the University of North Texas
10 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
11 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
12 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
13 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
14 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
15 the board for the following institutions or entities, not to exceed
16 the following aggregate principal amounts for the projects
17 specified, as follows:

18 (1) the University of North Texas System, \$42,000,000
19 for renovation of college of law buildings;

20 (2) the University of North Texas, \$62,100,000 for
21 construction and renovation of college of visual arts and design
22 facilities;

23 (3) the University of North Texas at Dallas,
24 \$52,500,000 for construction of a student learning and success
25 center; and

26 (4) the University of North Texas Health Science
27 Center at Fort Worth, \$67,500,000 for construction of an

1 interdisciplinary research building.

2 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
3 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
4 an institution, branch, or entity of the University of North Texas
5 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
6 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
7 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
8 bonds, are outstanding.

9 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
10 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer
11 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the University
12 of North Texas System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
13 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
14 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

15 Sec. 55.1786. TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY. (a) In addition to
16 the other authority granted by this subchapter, the board of
17 regents of Texas Woman's University may acquire, purchase,
18 construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property and
19 facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a
20 science and technology learning center, to be financed through the
21 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed
22 the aggregate principal amount of \$32,297,450.

23 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
24 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
25 Texas Woman's University, including student tuition charges. The
26 amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or
27 abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds

1 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

2 Sec. 55.1787. MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL
3 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
4 subchapter, the board of regents of Midwestern State University may
5 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip
6 property and facilities, including roads and related
7 infrastructure, for the Gunn College of Health Science and Human
8 Services, to be financed through the issuance of bonds in
9 accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the aggregate
10 principal amount of \$51,850,000.

11 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
12 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
13 Midwestern State University, including student tuition charges.
14 The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced
15 or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds
16 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

17 Sec. 55.1788. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY. (a) In
18 addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the
19 board of regents of Stephen F. Austin State University may acquire,
20 purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property
21 and facilities, including roads and related infrastructure, for a
22 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research
23 building at Stephen F. Austin State University, to be financed
24 through the issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter,
25 not to exceed the aggregate principal amount of \$49,300,000.

26 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
27 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of

1 Stephen F. Austin State University, including student tuition
2 charges. The amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not
3 be reduced or abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is
4 made, or bonds issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

5 Sec. 55.1789. TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; ADDITIONAL
6 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
7 subchapter, the board of regents of the Texas Tech University
8 System may acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate,
9 enlarge, or equip property and facilities, including roads and
10 related infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the
11 issuance of bonds in accordance with this subchapter and in
12 accordance with a systemwide revenue financing program adopted by
13 the board for the following institutions, not to exceed the
14 following aggregate principal amounts for the projects specified,
15 as follows:

16 (1) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center:

17 (A) \$56,497,500 for renovation and expansion of
18 Lubbock education, research, and technology facilities;

19 (B) \$13,365,000 for construction of the Permian
20 Basin academic facility; and

21 (C) \$4,762,500 for construction of the Amarillo
22 Panhandle Clinical/Hospital Simulation;

23 (2) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El
24 Paso, \$63,720,000 for construction of the El Paso Medical Science
25 Building II;

26 (3) Texas Tech University, \$65,947,500 for
27 construction of an experimental sciences building; and

1 (4) Angelo State University, \$18,022,500 for
2 construction of a College of Health and Human Services building.

3 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
4 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
5 an institution, branch, or entity of the Texas Tech University
6 System, including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge
7 made under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the
8 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
9 bonds, are outstanding.

10 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
11 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer
12 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the Texas Tech
13 University System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
14 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
15 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

16 Sec. 55.17891. TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY; ADDITIONAL
17 BONDS. (a) In addition to the other authority granted by this
18 subchapter, the board of regents of Texas Southern University may
19 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip
20 property and facilities, including roads and related
21 infrastructure, for the Robert J. Terry Library at Texas Southern
22 University, to be financed through the issuance of bonds in
23 accordance with this subchapter, not to exceed the aggregate
24 principal amount of \$59,710,680.

25 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of bonds
26 authorized by this section all or any part of the revenue funds of
27 Texas Southern University, including student tuition charges. The

1 amount of a pledge made under this subsection may not be reduced or
2 abrogated while the bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds
3 issued to refund those bonds, are outstanding.

4 Sec. 55.17892. TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM. (a) In
5 addition to the other authority granted by this subchapter, the
6 board of regents of the Texas State Technical College System may
7 acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip
8 property and facilities, including roads and related
9 infrastructure, for projects to be financed through the issuance of
10 bonds in accordance with this subchapter for the following
11 institutions, not to exceed the following aggregate principal
12 amounts for the projects specified, as follows:

13 (1) Texas State Technical College--West Texas,
14 \$9,967,270 for construction of an industrial technology center;

15 (2) Texas State Technical College--Harlingen,
16 \$3,114,772 for Phase II of the Engineering Technology Center
17 renovation;

18 (3) Texas State Technical College--Marshall,
19 \$7,875,400 for construction of a North Texas technology building;
20 and

21 (4) Texas State Technical College--Waco, \$12,417,558
22 for construction of the Fort Bend Technical Center.

23 (b) The board may pledge irrevocably to the payment of those
24 bonds all or any part of the revenue funds of an institution,
25 branch, or entity of the Texas State Technical College System,
26 including student tuition charges. The amount of a pledge made
27 under this subsection may not be reduced or abrogated while the

1 bonds for which the pledge is made, or bonds issued to refund those
2 bonds, are outstanding.

3 (c) If sufficient funds are not available to the board to
4 meet its obligations under this section, the board may transfer
5 funds among institutions, branches, and entities of the Texas State
6 Technical College System to ensure the most equitable and efficient
7 allocation of available resources for each institution, branch, or
8 entity to carry out its duties and purposes.

9 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect any authority or
10 restriction regarding the activities that a public institution of
11 higher education may conduct in connection with a facility financed
12 by bonds authorized by this Act.

13 SECTION 3. (a) The amount of \$2.86 billion is appropriated
14 out of the economic stabilization fund to the comptroller of public
15 accounts for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2017, for
16 distribution to institutions of higher education and university
17 systems for debt service on revenue bonds authorized by this Act.
18 This subsection takes effect only if this Act receives a vote of
19 two-thirds of the members present in each house of the legislature,
20 as provided by Section 49-g(m), Article III, Texas Constitution.
21 If this Act does not receive a vote of two-thirds of the members
22 present in each house of the legislature, this subsection does not
23 take effect.

24 (b) This subsection takes effect only if Subsection (a) of
25 this section does not take effect. The amount of \$2.86 billion is
26 appropriated out of the general revenue fund to the comptroller of
27 public accounts for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31,

1 2017, for distribution to institutions of higher education and
2 university systems for debt service on revenue bonds authorized by
3 this Act.

4 (c) The comptroller shall distribute a portion of the amount
5 appropriated by Subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as
6 applicable, to each institution of higher education or university
7 system, as applicable, in accordance with calculations made by the
8 Legislative Budget Board of each institution's or system's
9 proportionate share of the amount appropriated based on the amount
10 of revenue bonds authorized by this Act for each institution or
11 system.

12 (d) The Legislative Budget Board shall make the initial
13 calculations under this section and notify the comptroller and the
14 applicable institutions of higher education and university systems
15 of the respective shares to be distributed under this section as
16 soon as practicable. The Legislative Budget Board may make
17 adjustments to those calculations and provide a final determination
18 of those shares.

19 SECTION 4. Except as provided by Sections 3(a) and (b) of
20 this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.