

CHAPTER 609

S.B. No. 487

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Academy of Foreign Languages and Culture.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter O to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER O. TEXAS ACADEMY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND CULTURE

Sec. 61.781. **DEFINITIONS.** *In this subchapter:*

(1) "Academy" means the Texas Academy of Foreign Languages and Culture.

(2) "Director" means the director of the academy.

Sec. 61.782. **ACADEMY.** (a) *The academy is established under the board.*

(b) *The board may employ a director and other personnel necessary to administer this subchapter. The salaries of personnel employed by the board to administer this subchapter must be paid out of gifts and grants, including federal grants, except that the board may assign duties related to the academy to employees who are compensated out of other sources of revenue if those employees are employed by the board primarily for the purpose of performing duties that are not related to the academy.*

(c) *The board may adopt rules to administer this subchapter.*

(d) *The board may receive gifts and grants to implement this subchapter, except for gifts and grants offered by an office, a department, or another agency of state government.*

(e) *The purpose of the academy is to:*

(1) *advance the study of foreign languages and/or cultures in Texas; and*

(2) *advance educational and cultural exchange between Texas and current and prospective trade partners.*

Sec. 61.783. CONTRACTS. (a) The academy shall accomplish its purposes through contracts with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient for this state under 20 U.S.C. Section 956. The academy shall contract with a grant recipient to provide on behalf of the academy:

(1) scholarships to selected college and university juniors and seniors who are majoring in a foreign language and who intend to pursue teaching careers;

(2) financial support to selected institutions and organizations for cultural exchange programs between Texas and its current and prospective trade partners that include photographic exhibitions, film and video documentary programs, print resources, conferences, and literary projects;

(3) financial support to selected teachers and scholars to conduct lectures and research projects in key foreign countries and to cover reasonable and necessary domestic expenses of teachers and scholars of other nations qualified to lecture and conduct research in Texas;

(4) financial support to selected colleges and universities to host summer programs of three to four weeks in duration in foreign language and culture studies, including the study of key international issues, designed to improve the knowledge and skills of foreign language teachers;

(5) financial support to selected colleges and universities to sponsor programs of one or two weeks in duration for interested high school students who have had at least two successful years of foreign language study; and

(6) financial support to selected institutions that will provide, for a fee, intensive foreign language instruction to owners and representatives of businesses and to professionals in this state who are doing or planning to do business with current and prospective trade partners and who will pay for the instruction.

(b) A contract with a grant recipient under Subsection (a) of this section must provide that:

(1) the grant recipient shall award scholarships and financial support that use academy money to persons and entities based on a competitive program established by the grant recipient;

(2) the grant recipient shall establish controls designed to ensure that persons and entities who receive scholarships or financial support use the money for the intended purpose;

(3) the grant recipient shall make regular reports to the director on its expenditures under the contract, including the identity of persons and entities chosen by the grant recipient to receive scholarships or financial support under the contract, and on other information related to the contract that may be required by the director; and

(4) the transactions of the grant recipient under the contract are subject to audit by the state auditor in accordance with Chapter 321, Government Code.

(c) The grant recipient may also accomplish the purposes of the subject matter of a contract under this section with money that is not received under the contract, to the extent allowed under this subchapter and federal law.

Sec. 61.784. COORDINATION. The board may establish an interagency task force on international studies and cultural exchange, coordinated by the academy, to develop long-range goals designed to enhance foreign language and international studies and to expand educational and cultural exchange. If the board establishes the task force, then in addition to other persons chosen for the task force by the academy, the academy shall invite the governor, the commissioner of education, the commissioner of higher education, the executive director of the Texas Department of Commerce, and the executive director of the Texas Committee for the Humanities to serve on the task force or to designate a representative to serve on the task force. The academy also shall invite the lieutenant governor to designate a member of the senate to serve on the task force and shall invite the speaker of the house of representatives to designate a member of the house of representatives to serve on the task force.

SECTION 2. General revenue may not be appropriated for costs related to the implementation of this Act, except to the extent that employees who are employed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board primarily for the purpose of performing duties that are not related to the Texas Academy of Foreign Languages and Culture perform limited duties related to the academy to the extent allowed by Subsection (b), Section 61.782, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on March 30, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 25, 1993: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendments, on May 22, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 13, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.