

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of the Texas Institute for Coastal
3 Prairie Research and Education at the University of Houston.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 111, Education Code, is amended by
6 adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER J. TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL PRAIRIE RESEARCH AND
8 EDUCATION

9 Sec. 111.141. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

10 (1) "Board" means the board of regents of the
11 University of Houston System.

12 (2) "Institute" means the Texas Institute for Coastal
13 Prairie Research and Education established under this subchapter.

14 Sec. 111.142. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The Texas Institute for
15 Coastal Prairie Research and Education is established at the
16 University of Houston.

17 (b) The organization, control, and management of the
18 institute are vested in the board.

19 Sec. 111.143. POWERS AND DUTIES. The institute shall:

20 (1) conduct environmental research and education on
21 coastal prairie and prairie restoration;

22 (2) provide a setting for other entities to conduct
23 environmental research and education on coastal prairie and prairie
24 restoration; and

1 (3) provide national leadership and education
2 regarding the best methods to restore coastal prairie.

3 Sec. 111.144. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES. The
4 University of Houston shall encourage public or private entities to
5 participate in or support the operation of the institute and may
6 enter into an agreement with any public or private entity for that
7 purpose. An agreement may allow the institute to provide
8 information, services, or other assistance to an entity in exchange
9 for the entity's participation or support.

10 Sec. 111.145. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board may solicit,
11 accept, and administer gifts and grants from any public or private
12 source for the purposes of the institute.

13 Sec. 111.146. PERSONNEL. The board may employ personnel
14 for the institute as necessary.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2285 was passed by the House on May 6, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 11, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2285 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor