

Tarleton bill passes House muster for Texas A&M campus - 4/24/2007

(Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood: Education)

(Killeen) - Central Texas took one step forward toward the establishment of an upper-level public university when the Texas House passed the third reading of two bills: one to help Tarleton State University-Central Texas reach the threshold for becoming Texas A&M-Central Texas; and the other to provide funding for infrastructure costs. Both area legislators and businessmen agree the transition is vital to the educational and economic health of both the area and state. John Crutchfield, Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce president said Fort Hood is the largest, single-site employer in the state. It has a \$6 billion impact on the state's economy. establishment of the new university -- the only upper-level public university within 110 miles of Killeen -- holds key significance to the development of two major technologies for the area and state. "With Scott & White, Texas A&M's medical school and now the new medical center at Fort Hood, you can really incubate a lot of the research and development," said Crutchfield. Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock, R-Killeen, said the Secretary of the Army has authorized the base to convey a 662-acre site to the Texas A&M University System for the proposed university. Partnering with the community, he added, it could offer education for soldiers, veterans, their families and other Central Texas residents.

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