

Texas House of Representatives



EDDIE LUCIO III

DISTRICT 38
CAMERON COUNTY

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Contact: Ruben O'Bell
956-542-2800

REP. LUCIO III FILES LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A RIO GRANDE VALLEY LAW SCHOOL

BROWNSVILLE-- Representative Eddie Lucio III, recently elected to his fifth term in the Texas Legislature, filed legislation that would begin the process of establishing a law school in the Rio Grande Valley. Rep. Lucio plans to continue expanding higher education opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley, building on the addition of a medical school in the 83rd Legislative Session. The proposed bill addresses the lack of legal representation and higher education in South Texas.

"Much like access to medical care and education, access to legal services and education will provide new opportunities for our region," said Rep. Lucio. **"Not only is our region the most heavily underserved in legal services, but the nearest law school is close to five hours away."**

The Rio Grande Valley is currently considerably below the national average of lawyers to population. Brownsville has only one attorney per every 768 citizens, while nationally the ratio is one per every 253 citizens. Additionally, residents of the Rio Grande Valley must either go to San Antonio for the closest private law school or Houston for the closest public law school.

"Our friends and families simply do not have proper access to legal services that are traditionally more available in other areas of the state and the nation," said Rep. Lucio. **"The addition of an RGV law school will provide our region the opportunity to meet the legal needs and education goals of our citizens while allowing them to remain in the Valley."**

The 84th Legislative Session begins Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

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Committees: Calendars, Vice Chairman • Natural Resources • Special Purpose Districts
Capitol: P.O. Box 2910 • Austin, Texas 78768-2910 • (512) 463-0606 • Fax (512) 463-0660
District: 1805 E. Ruben M. Torres Blvd., Ste. B-27 • Brownsville, Texas 78526 • (956) 542-2800 • Fax (956) 542-2889