

Upper Level College May Open in '73

Gov. Preston Smith announced this morning that he will visit the city soon to sign legislation which will establish a Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi. No date was set for the ceremony.

The governor's signature is the final legislative detail needed to clinch the realization of a long awaited upper-level college in Corpus Christi. Its doors possibly could be open in time for the fall semester in 1973.

Dr. James C. Jernigan, president of Texas A&I University at Kingsville, called a decisive vote in the Senate yesterday "a milestone for progress in this area of Texas."

He predicted that the college could begin offering classes on a limited basis within two years if facilities and financing are available.

Okayed in Six Minutes

The bill directing the Texas A&I University board of directors to establish the college was approved within six minutes after Sen. Ronald Bridges of Corpus Christi moved for a vote on the issue. It was passed on a voice vote after senators voted 24-5 to suspend rules and permit consideration of the bill.

A companion bill already had been passed by the House.

The bill requires that a campus of at least 200 acres be provided at no cost to the state. The exact site was not stipulated.

The Texas A&I University board of directors was authorized to provide a facility which would offer the junior and senior years of college work and a program of graduate studies leading to bachelor and master degrees.