

AN ACT

relating to off-campus workforce education or lower-division programs offered by a public institution of higher education at the request of an employer.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.981 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.981. OFF-CAMPUS WORKFORCE EDUCATION OR LOWER-DIVISION PROGRAMS REQUESTED BY EMPLOYERS. An institution of higher education may enter into an agreement with an employer to provide a credit or noncredit off-campus workforce education or lower-division program to the institution's students at a site requested by the employer without the approval of a higher education regional council established under Subchapter N, regardless of whether the site at which the program would be offered is located within the institution's uniform state service region or, if the institution is a public junior college, within the junior college district's service area, if:

(1) the employer has solicited an agreement to offer the program at that site with another institution of higher education that offers the same or substantially equivalent coursework as that requested by the employer;

(2) the proposed site for the off-campus program is located within the uniform state service region in which the

1 institution described by Subdivision (1) is located or, if the
2 institution is a public junior college, within the junior college
3 district's service area; and

4 (3) the institution of higher education described by
5 Subdivision (1) does not finalize an offer to enter into an
6 agreement with the employer that meets the employer's
7 specifications for the off-campus program within six weeks after
8 the employer's initial written solicitation requesting the
9 institution to offer the program.

10 SECTION 2. Section 51.981, Education Code, as added by this
11 Act, applies beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4361 was passed by the House on May 14, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4361 was passed by the Senate on May 24, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor