

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) the proposed site for the off-campus program is
24 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.