

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 200

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the period for which an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student to a public institution of higher education is entitled to an academic fresh start.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.931(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) If an applicant elects to seek admission under this section, a public institution of higher education:

(1) ~~shall~~ in considering the applicant for admission, may opt to ~~shall~~ not consider academic course credits or grades earned by the applicant five ~~10~~ or more years before ~~prior to~~ the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll; and

(2) if the institution enrolls the applicant as a student, shall award the applicant academic credit for a number of semester credit hours or the equivalent equal to the lesser of:

(A) the number of semester credit hours or the equivalent earned by the applicant during the period described by Subdivision (1); or

(B) six semester credit hours or the equivalent. ~~[An applicant who makes the election to apply under this section and is admitted as a student may not receive any course credit for courses undertaken 10 or more years prior to enrollment~~

1 ~~under this section.]~~

2 SECTION 2. Section 61.0595(c), Education Code, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (c) For a student enrolled in a baccalaureate program under
5 Section 51.931, semester credit hours earned by the student five
6 [~~10~~] or more years before the date the student begins the new degree
7 program under Section 51.931 are not counted for purposes of
8 determining whether the student has previously earned the number of
9 semester credit hours specified by Subsection (a).

10 SECTION 3. Section 51.931(c), Education Code, as amended by
11 this Act, applies beginning with admissions to a public institution
12 of higher education for the 2023 fall semester.

13 SECTION 4. Section 61.0595(c), Education Code, as amended
14 by this Act, applies beginning with funding recommendations made
15 under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the state fiscal biennium
16 beginning September 1, 2025, for semester credit hours earned by
17 students enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program at a public
18 institution of higher education under Section 51.931, Education
19 Code, as added by this Act, for the 2023 fall semester or a
20 subsequent semester or term. Funding recommendations for semester
21 credit hours earned by a student who enrolled in a baccalaureate
22 degree program at a public institution of higher education under
23 Section 51.931, Education Code, as amended by this Act, before the
24 2023 fall semester are governed by the law in effect immediately
25 before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is
26 continued in effect for that purpose.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.