

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2068

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the information maintained by the Texas Education
3 Agency regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 7.040, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (a-1) to
7 read as follows:

8 (a) The agency shall prepare information comparing
9 institutions of higher education in this state and post the
10 information on the agency's Internet website. Information prepared
11 under this section shall be given to any ~~any~~ public or private
12 school student who requests the information. The information
13 shall:

14 (1) identify postsecondary education and career
15 opportunities, including information that states the benefits of
16 four-year and two-year higher education programs, postsecondary
17 technical education, skilled workforce careers, and career
18 education programs;

19 (2) assist prospective postsecondary students in
20 assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or
21 baccalaureate degree program, or other credential program offered
22 by an institution of higher education by comparing ~~compare~~
23 institution ~~[of higher education]~~ with other institutions
24 regarding:

1 (A) the relative cost of obtaining the
2 certificate, degree, or other credential, including:

3 (i) the total cost of attendance, based on
4 the most recent data released through the United States Department
5 of Education's College Scorecard online tool or a successor tool;

6 (ii) the total cost of tuition and fees;

7 (iii) the median cost of room and board;

8 (iv) the median student debt of students
9 who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential
10 from the institution as compared to the median student debt of all
11 students who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other
12 credential, based on the most recent data released through the
13 United States Department of Education's College Scorecard online
14 tool or a successor tool;

15 (v) the estimated monthly student loan
16 payment, computed using the standard 10-year repayment plan; and

17 (vi) the percentage of students who fully
18 repay student debt within the standard 10-year repayment period or,
19 if this information is not available for the program, the
20 percentage of students in all certificate programs, degree
21 programs, or other credential programs who fully repay student debt
22 within the standard 10-year repayment period [tuition];

23 (B) educational outcomes for [the retention rate
24 of] students seeking the certificate, degree, or other credential,
25 including:

26 (i) the percentage of students who continue
27 in the program after the first year of study;

1 (ii) the graduation rate; and

2 (iii) the percentage of graduates employed
3 in a field related to the certificate program, degree program, or
4 other credential program within one year of graduation; and

5 (C) the median earnings of graduates, expressed
6 as a yearly amount and as a percentage of median student debt, based
7 on the most recent data released through the United States
8 Department of Education's College Scorecard online tool or a
9 successor tool [~~the graduation rate of students~~];

10 [~~(D) the average student debt;~~

11 [~~(E) the loan repayment rate of students; and~~

12 [~~(F) the employment rate of students;~~]

13 (3) identify the state's future workforce needs, as
14 projected by the Texas Workforce Commission; and

15 (4) include annual wage information for the top 10
16 highest demand jobs in this state, as identified by the Texas
17 Workforce Commission.

18 (a-1) The information required under Subsections
19 (a)(2)(A)(i), (iv), and (vi) and (a)(2)(C) must be updated each
20 time new data described by that provision is released through the
21 United States Department of Education's College Scorecard online
22 tool or a successor tool.

23 (c) Each institution of higher education shall:

24 (1) include on its Internet website, in a prominent
25 location that is not more than three hyperlinks from the website's
26 home page, a link to the information posted on the agency's Internet
27 website under Subsection (a); and

1 (2) disclose to a student on the student's enrollment
2 in or transfer to a certificate program, associate or baccalaureate
3 degree program, or other credential program at the institution the
4 information posted on the agency's Internet website under
5 Subsection (a) relating to the program.

6 SECTION 2. Section 2308A.007, Government Code, is amended
7 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

8 (a-1) A credential library established under this section
9 must include the information described by Section 7.040(a),
10 Education Code.

11 SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
12 date of this Act, the Texas Education Agency shall update the
13 information required under Section 7.040(a), Education Code, as
14 amended by this Act.

15 (b) As soon as practicable after the Texas Education Agency
16 completes the update required by Subsection (a) of this section,
17 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall update the
18 comparative gainful employment data regarding public institutions
19 of higher education required to be maintained by the board under
20 Sections 51.762(b-1) and 51.763(b), Education Code, to include the
21 information required under Section 7.040(a), Education Code, as
22 amended by this Act.

23 (c) As soon as practicable after the Texas Education Agency
24 completes the update required by Subsection (a) of this section,
25 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas
26 Workforce Commission shall jointly update the credential library
27 established under Section 2308A.007, Government Code, to include

1 the information required under Section 7.040(a), Education Code, as
2 amended by this Act.

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