

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 2137

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to requiring public institutions of higher education to  
3 offer an undergraduate course in financial literacy and soft  
4 skills.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 51.305, Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.305. PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY AND SOFT SKILLS  
9 ~~[TRAINING]~~. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher  
11 Education Coordinating Board.

12 (2) "Institution of higher education" ~~["General~~  
13 ~~academic teaching institution"]~~ has the meaning assigned by Section  
14 61.003.

15 (b) Each institution of higher education ~~[The coordinating~~  
16 ~~board by rule]~~ shall offer an undergraduate elective course of  
17 three semester credit hours or the equivalent ~~[: (1) require a~~  
18 ~~general academic teaching institution to offer training]~~ in  
19 personal financial literacy and soft skills. The course must be  
20 offered for credit toward satisfaction of a student's core  
21 curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences.

22 (c) The personal financial literacy content provided under  
23 the course:

24 (1) must include instruction in ~~[to provide students~~

1 ~~of the institution with~~ the knowledge and skills necessary as a  
2 self-supporting adult ~~[adults]~~ to make critical decisions relating  
3 to personal financial matters; and

4 (2) ~~[determine the topics to be covered by the~~  
5 ~~training, which]~~ may include instruction in budgeting, credit  
6 cards, spending, saving, loan repayment and consolidation, taxes,  
7 retirement planning, insurance, and financing of health care and  
8 other benefits.

9 (d) The soft skills content provided under the course must  
10 include instruction in:

11 (1) workplace ethics and etiquette;

12 (2) effective communication;

13 (3) leadership;

14 (4) organizational skills;

15 (5) time management;

16 (6) problem solving;

17 (7) critical thinking; and

18 (8) persistence.

19 (e) [~~e~~] The coordinating board ~~[by rule]~~ may adopt rules  
20 for the administration of ~~[provide for the training required under]~~  
21 this section ~~[to be offered in an online course]~~.

22 SECTION 2. Section 51.305, Education Code, as amended by  
23 this Act, applies beginning with the 2024 fall semester.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.