

By: Lalani

H.B. No. 181

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a requirement that public institutions of higher
3 education provide applicants with certain information regarding
4 eligibility for public health programs.

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 51.9199 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.9199. REQUIRED INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH
9 PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY. (a) In this section, "institution of higher
10 education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

11 (b) An institution of higher education shall distribute to
12 each applicant for admission as an entering freshman or
13 undergraduate transfer student information designed to educate and
14 inform the applicant about eligibility requirements for public
15 health benefits coverage, including coverage under Medicaid and the
16 child health plan program. The information must:

17 (1) clearly explain the eligibility requirements for
18 the applicable public health programs;

19 (2) address the most common health care needs of the
20 student population in relation to the public health benefits that
21 may be available to the applicant under the public health programs;

22 (3) be tailored specifically to the student population
23 who may complete the necessary forms independently; and

24 (4) include the enrollment procedures for the public

1 health programs, including a link to the Health and Human Services
2 Commission's Internet website that displays that enrollment
3 information.

4 (c) To support the provision of information under
5 Subsection (b), the Health and Human Services Commission shall
6 develop informational material about the eligibility requirements
7 for public health benefits coverage, including coverage under
8 Medicaid and the child health plan program, that is:

9 (1) up to date; and

10 (2) clear and easy to understand.

11 SECTION 2. Section 51.9199, Education Code, as added by
12 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025 fall semester.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.