

Amend CSHB 3015 by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION and renumbering existing SECTIONS accordingly:

SECTION _____. (a) Section 61.088, Education Code, as added by Chapter 795, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is renumbered as Section 61.0901, Education Code, and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0901 [~~61.088~~]. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE [~~PILOT~~] PROGRAM. (a) The board shall administer and coordinate the Higher Education Assistance [~~Pilot~~] Program to:

(1) provide to prospective students in [~~three~~] areas of this state with the highest number of students who do not attend institutions of higher education, as determined by the board, information related to enrollment in public or private or independent institutions of higher education, including admissions and financial aid information; and

(2) assist those prospective students in completing applications related to enrollment in those institutions, including admissions and financial aid applications.

(b) The board shall provide the information and assistance required by this section at least twice each year at one or more appropriate locations in each area served by the [~~pilot~~] program.

(c) The board may coordinate with an institution of higher education or other entity to provide the information and assistance required by this section in each area served by the [~~pilot~~] program.

(d) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year [~~August 31, 2003~~], the board shall submit to the legislature a report on the effectiveness of the [~~pilot~~] program[~~, including recommendations on whether to implement the program on a statewide basis~~]. The report must include a comparison of the number of college acceptances before and after the implementation of the program from areas served by the program.

~~[(c) The pilot program ends and this section expires August 31, 2003.]~~

(b) Notwithstanding Section ____ of this Act, Subsection (a) of this section takes effect immediately if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, Subsection (a) takes effect September 1, 2003, and has the effect of reenacting, amending, and renumbering Section 61.088, Education Code, as added by Chapter 795, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001.