

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 2555

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring a course in multicultural or gender studies
3 in baccalaureate degree programs at public institutions of higher
4 education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 51.305 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.305. MULTICULTURAL OR GENDER STUDIES REQUIREMENT.

9 (a) An institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003
10 may not award a baccalaureate degree to a student unless the student
11 successfully completes at the institution a course of at least
12 three semester credit hours in multicultural studies or gender
13 studies approved for that purpose by the Texas Higher Education
14 Coordinating Board.

15 (b) For purposes of this section:

16 (1) multicultural studies may include a general
17 examination of multicultural experiences, perspectives, or other
18 aspects of a pluralistic society, including studies examining
19 multiple religious traditions, beliefs, or perspectives, or
20 studies that consider or recognize a broad range of cultural,
21 ethnic, or religious perspectives or contributions in a specific
22 topic, field, or discipline; and

23 (2) gender studies may include a general examination
24 of the roles, history, experiences, or contributions of individuals

1 from the perspective of gender, or similar studies in a specific
2 topic, field, or discipline, and may include studies focusing on
3 the significance of gender in any field or discipline.

4 (c) The institution may determine that a student has
5 satisfied the requirement of Subsection (a) on the basis of credit
6 granted to the student by the institution for a substantially
7 equivalent course completed at another public or private
8 institution of higher education. The institution may not allow a
9 student to satisfy that requirement on the basis of the student's
10 successful completion of an examination for course credit.

11 (d) This section does not apply to a baccalaureate degree
12 awarded before September 1, 2005. This subsection expires January
13 1, 2006.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.