

By: Rangel

H.B. No. 3375

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the repeal of the Texas Academic Skills Program and
3 establishing the Success Initiative.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.306, Education Code, is repealed and
6 replaced with a new Section 51.306 to read as follows:

7 Section 51.306. Success Initiative. (a) The purpose of
8 this section is to assess the readiness of entering college
9 students to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework and to
10 assist students who are not yet ready by providing the advising and
11 educational support they need to succeed in college.

12 (b) In this section:

13 (1) "Board," "institution of higher education,"
14 "private or independent institution of higher education," "general
15 academic teaching institution," "public junior college," "public
16 technical institute," and "public state college" have the meanings
17 assigned by Section 61.003 of this code.

18 (c) Each undergraduate who enters a public institution of
19 higher education shall be assessed to determine readiness to enroll
20 in freshman-level academic coursework. An institution may not use
21 the assessment as a condition of admission into the institution.

22 (d) The Board shall designate at least one instrument for
23 institutions to use to assess students. The Board may designate
24 multiple instruments for institutions to use. Any assessment

1 instrument approved by the Board must be diagnostic in nature and
2 designed to provide an assessment of a student's readiness to
3 perform freshman-level academic college coursework. It is the
4 intent of the Legislature that the assessment instrument required
5 in Section 39.023 of this code be designated as an assessment
6 instrument and shall replace the test referred to as the Texas
7 Academic Skills Program Test no later than September 1, 2005.

8 (e) The Board shall prescribe assessment standards that
9 reflect readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic college
10 coursework. If the Board approves more than one assessment
11 instrument, the scores on all instruments shall be correlated.

12 (f) Each institution of higher education shall establish an
13 advising program to advise students about coursework and any other
14 means by which students can develop the skills they need to
15 successfully complete college-level work.

16 (g) If a student does not meet the assessment standards, the
17 institution shall work with the student to develop a plan to assist
18 the student in becoming college ready. The institution may refer a
19 student to developmental coursework; however, referral to
20 coursework is not required. The plan should be designed
21 individually to provide the best opportunity for a student to
22 become ready to successfully complete college-level work.

23 (h) A student may re-take the assessment at any time to
24 determine readiness to enter college-level coursework.

25 (i) Institutions shall determine when a student is ready to
26 take college-level course work. This determination may include
27 having a student retake the assessment, or it may include other

1 means of evaluating readiness. The determination should be made
2 individually based on what best serves the student's needs. A
3 student who has been determined to meet college-readiness standards
4 at one institution may not be required to complete additional
5 developmental education at another institution to which the student
6 transfers.

7 (j) The state shall fund approved non-degree-credit
8 developmental courses; however, a general academic teaching
9 institution may not receive funding for developmental coursework
10 taken by a student in excess of 18 semester credit hours, and a
11 public junior college, public technical institute or public state
12 college may not receive funding for developmental coursework taken
13 by a student in excess of 27 semester credit hours. Additionally,
14 the board may develop formulas to augment institutional funding of
15 other developmental academic programs and may develop a performance
16 funding formula by which institutions may receive additional
17 funding for each student who completes the student success
18 assessment program and then successfully completes college
19 coursework. The state may appropriate the funds required to provide
20 the additional funding from such formulas.

21 (k) Each institution shall report annually to the Board on
22 the success of its students and the effectiveness of its Success
23 Initiative.

24 (l) The Board shall evaluate the effectiveness of the
25 Success Initiative.

26 (m) This section does not apply to:

27 (1) A student who has achieved a score set by the Board

1 on the Scholastic Assessment Test or the ACT or

2 (2) A student who has achieved a score set by the Board
3 on the exit-level assessment required under Section 39.023 of this
4 code. This section expires on _____, 2004.

5 (n) This section does not apply to:

6 (1) A student located outside this state who enrolls
7 in a course offered outside this state by an institution of higher
8 education;

9 (2) A student who has graduated with an associate's or
10 baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education, a
11 private or independent institution of higher education, or an
12 accredited out-of-state institution of higher education;

13 (3) A student who is enrolled in a certificate program
14 of one year or less at a public community college or technical
15 institute; or

16 (4) A student who accumulated three or more
17 college-level semester credit hours prior to the 1989 fall
18 semester.

19 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
20 shall adopt rules for the administration of this section, as added
21 by this Act, as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect. For
22 that purpose, the Board may adopt the initial rules in the manner
23 provided by law for emergency rules.

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, 2003.