

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 26

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a pilot program for retention of students in higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9356 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9356. PILOT PROGRAM REGARDING THE RETENTION OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall develop a pilot program called the "Freshman SUCCESS Program" that will focus on retention of high-risk students who are first generation in college, low-income, and/or educationally underprepared by providing proactive intervention modalities to meet the demands of college.

(b) The pilot program shall address the students' academic, emotional, behavioral, and financial needs as well as cultural barriers that may affect their success in college.

(c) In conducting this pilot program study, the board shall:

(1) identify and evaluate the potential benefits and advantages of this type of program;

(2) evaluate and make recommendations concerning any legal, administrative, or practical problems with this type of program; and

(3) indicate the impact on the goals for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Closing the Gaps strategy.

1 (d) The board shall complete the pilot program study and
2 report the results of the study to the Legislature on or before
3 December 1, 2004. The report must include the board's
4 recommendations concerning the Freshman SUCCESS Program.

5 (e) In this section, "board" means the Texas Higher
6 Education Coordinating Board.

7 (f) This section expires September 1, 2005.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.