

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 55

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to forensic evidence training for students enrolled in  
3 certain medical or nursing degree programs.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 51.310 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.310. FORENSIC EVIDENCE COLLECTION COURSE  
8 REQUIREMENT. (a) An institution of higher education, as defined by  
9 Section 61.003, that offers a program leading to a doctor of  
10 medicine or doctor of osteopathy degree or to a degree that  
11 satisfies the educational requirement for licensure as a registered  
12 nurse shall establish a course in forensic evidence collection and,  
13 except as provided by Subsection (b), require completion of the  
14 course as a prerequisite to receiving the degree.

15 (b) The institution of higher education may determine  
16 whether to award to a student enrolled in the degree program credit  
17 for a substantially similar course successfully completed at  
18 another public or accredited private institution of higher  
19 education.

20 (c) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
21 establish standards for the course required by this section.

22 SECTION 2. (a) Each institution of higher education  
23 offering a degree program to which Section 51.310, Education Code,  
24 as added by this Act, applies must offer the course required by that

1 section not later than the fall 2004 semester.

2 (b) Section 51.310, Education Code, as added by this Act,  
3 applies only to a student who initially enrolls in a degree program  
4 to which that section applies on or after August 1, 2004.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.