

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1541

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the accountability of, and reporting by, public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.4015 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.4015. ACCOUNTABILITY OF, AND REPORTING BY, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (a) In this section "institution of higher education," "governing board," and "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) In furtherance of the policies of this state to provide an affordable, accessible, accountable, and high quality system of higher education that prepares individuals for a changing economy and workforce and to promote the development and application of knowledge through instruction, research, and public service, each governing board of a university system shall adopt standards that measure the performance of each institution of higher education under its jurisdiction.

(c) The standards required by Subsection (b) must include:

- (1) standards that measure the availability of each institution to potential students and the success of students in meeting the academic requirements of the institution;
- (2) standards relating to academic excellence
- (3) standards relating to service to and support by

1 communities; and

2 (4) standards relating to organizational efficiency
3 and productivity.

4 (d) The governing body of each university system shall file
5 an annual report of the performance of each institution of higher
6 education under its jurisdiction in meeting the standards adopted
7 under this section. The report shall be filed with the governor's
8 budget office, the Legislative Budget Board, the Texas Higher
9 Education Coordinating Board, and the Legislative Audit Committee.
10 The report is due February 1 following each academic year.

11 (e) The report required by Subsection (d) is the only
12 periodic report of the performance of each institution of higher
13 education required to be made other than a report specifically
14 required by the General Appropriations Act. The Texas Higher
15 Education Coordinating Board is not required to prepare a summary
16 of the report required by this section as otherwise would be
17 required by Section 51.404.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003. The
19 first report required by Section 51.4015, Education Code, as added
20 by this Act, is due February 1, 2004.