

AN ACT

relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of students from 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 51.4032 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.4032. REPORT OF EFFORTS CONCERNING TIMELY GRADUATION. (a) Not later than November 1 of each year, the president of each general academic teaching institution, as defined by Section 61.003, shall provide to the governing board of the institution a report for the preceding academic year that examines the institution's efforts concerning timely graduation of its undergraduate students.

(b) The report must:

(1) state, for each undergraduate degree program, the average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student completing the program;

(2) state the specific efforts implemented by the institution to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner and do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the students' degree programs, including the institution's efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation,

1 including the development of an online student degree progress  
2 report which compares the courses taken and credit received by a  
3 student to the courses completed and needed for degree and  
4 graduation requirements for each academic term, and to implement  
5 tuition policies that encourage timely graduation; and

6 (3) include any other information required by the  
7 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

8 (c) An institution's report must be in the form prescribed  
9 by coordinating board rule adopted in consultation with general  
10 academic teaching institutions.

11 SECTION 2. Section 52.91(c), Education Code, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (c) The board shall repay bonds issued by the board to fund  
14 the Texas B-On-time student loan program using legislative  
15 appropriations and money collected by the board as repayment for  
16 Texas B-On-time student loans awarded by the board. The board may  
17 use tuition set aside under Section 56.465 to repay bonds issued by  
18 the board for the Texas B-On-time student loan program. The board  
19 may not use money collected by the board as repayment for student  
20 loans awarded by the board under Subchapter C to repay bonds issued  
21 by the board for the Texas B-On-time student loan program under  
22 Section 56.464(b).

23 SECTION 3. Section 54.068, Education Code, is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 54.068. TUITION FOR REPEATED OR EXCESSIVE  
26 UNDERGRADUATE HOURS. (a) An institution of higher education may  
27 charge a resident undergraduate student tuition at a higher rate

1 than the rate charged to other resident undergraduate students, not  
2 to exceed the rate charged to nonresident undergraduate students,  
3 if before the semester or other academic session begins the student  
4 has previously attempted a number of semester credit hours for  
5 courses taken at any institution of higher education while  
6 classified as a resident student for tuition purposes that exceeds  
7 by at least 30 [~~45~~] hours the number of semester credit hours  
8 required for completion of the degree program in which the student  
9 is enrolled. For purposes of this subsection, an undergraduate  
10 student who is not enrolled in a degree program is considered to be  
11 enrolled in a degree program or programs requiring a minimum of 120  
12 semester credit hours, including minors and double majors, and for  
13 completion of any certificate or other special program in which the  
14 student is also enrolled, including a program with a study-abroad  
15 component. An institution of higher education that charges students  
16 tuition at a higher rate under this subsection may adopt a policy  
17 under which the institution exempts from the payment of that higher  
18 rate a student that is subject to the payment of the higher rate  
19 solely as a result of hardship as determined by the institution  
20 under the policy.

21 (b) Semester credit hours or other credit listed in Section  
22 61.0595(d) is not counted in determining the number of semester  
23 credit hours previously attempted by a student for purposes of  
24 Subsection (a).

25 (c) Subsection (a) applies only [~~does not apply~~] to the  
26 tuition charged to a student who initially enrolled as an  
27 undergraduate student in an institution of higher education during

1 or after [~~before~~] the 1999 fall semester, except that the  
2 institution of higher education may not require a student who  
3 initially enrolls as an undergraduate student in an institution of  
4 higher education before the 2006 fall semester to pay higher  
5 tuition as permitted by Subsection (a) until the number of semester  
6 credit hours previously attempted by the student as described by  
7 that subsection exceeds the number of semester credit hours  
8 required for the student's degree program by at least 45 hours.

9 (d) In its appropriations to institutions of higher  
10 education, the legislature shall compute the local funds available  
11 to each institution as if the tuition collected under Subsections  
12 [~~Subsection~~] (a) and (f) were not collected.

13 (e) Each institution of higher education shall inform each  
14 new undergraduate student enrolling at the institution in writing  
15 of the limitation provided by this section on the number of hours or  
16 type of courses that a Texas resident is entitled to complete while  
17 paying tuition at the rate provided for Texas residents.

18 (f) An institution of higher education may charge a resident  
19 undergraduate student tuition at a higher rate than the rate  
20 charged to other resident undergraduate students, not to exceed the  
21 rate charged to nonresident undergraduate students, for any course  
22 in which the student enrolls that is the same as or substantively  
23 identical to a course for which the student previously completed.  
24 The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt a rule  
25 that exempts a resident undergraduate student from this subsection  
26 if the student enrolls in a course that is the same as or  
27 substantially similar to a course that the student previously

1 completed, solely as a result of a hardship or other good cause.

2 SECTION 4. Section 56.076, Education Code, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 56.076. ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER. An eligible institution  
5 may enter into agreements with employers that participate in the  
6 work-study program. To be eligible to participate in the  
7 work-study program, an employer must:

8 (1) provide part-time employment to an eligible  
9 student in nonpartisan and nonsectarian activities;

10 (2) provide, insofar as is practicable, employment to  
11 an eligible student that is related to the student's academic  
12 interests;

13 (3) use Texas college work-study program positions  
14 only to supplement and not to supplant positions normally filled by  
15 persons not eligible to participate in the work-study program;

16 (4) provide from sources other than federal college  
17 work-study program funds a percentage [~~not less than 30 percent~~] of  
18 an employed student's wages that is equal to the percentage of a  
19 student's wages that the employer would be required to provide to  
20 the student in that academic year under the [~~and 100 percent of~~  
21 ~~other employee benefits for the employed student from sources other~~  
22 ~~than~~] federal college work-study program [~~funds, if the employer is~~  
23 ~~a nonprofit entity~~]; and

24 (5) provide from sources other than federal college  
25 work-study funds [~~not less than 50 percent of an employed student's~~  
26 ~~wages and~~] 100 percent of other employee benefits for the employed  
27 student[, ~~if the employer is a profit-making entity~~].

1 SECTION 5. Subchapter E, Chapter 56, Education Code, is  
2 amended by adding Section 56.079 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 56.079. WORK-STUDY STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.

4 (a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution" has  
5 the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

6 (b) A general academic teaching institution may establish a  
7 work-study student mentorship program under which students who are  
8 enrolled in their junior or senior year at the institution and who  
9 meet the eligibility requirements for employment in the Texas  
10 college work-study program under Section 56.075 may be employed by  
11 the institution under the Texas college work-study program to  
12 mentor students who are on academic probation at the institution.

13 (c) A general academic teaching institution that has  
14 established a work-study student mentorship program under this  
15 section may require students who are on academic probation at the  
16 institution to be matched with a student mentor employed under the  
17 program.

18 (d) Not later than November 1 of each year, each general  
19 academic teaching institution that has established a work-study  
20 student mentorship program under this section shall submit to the  
21 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a report regarding the  
22 progress of the institution's program. The report must include the  
23 number of students employed by the institution as mentors under the  
24 program in the preceding academic year and information relating to  
25 the costs of the program and the academic progress of the students  
26 receiving mentoring under the program in that year.

27 (e) Each general academic teaching institution that has

1 established a work-study student mentorship program under this  
2 section shall set aside a portion of the institution's Texas  
3 college work-study program funds to pay for the state's  
4 contribution toward the costs of the program.

5 (f) Notwithstanding Section 56.076, a general academic  
6 teaching institution that employs a student mentor under the  
7 work-study student mentorship program shall provide from sources  
8 other than federal college work-study funds:

9 (1) not less than 10 percent of the employed student's  
10 wages; and

11 (2) 100 percent of other employee benefits for the  
12 employed student.

13 SECTION 6. Section 56.304, Education Code, is amended by  
14 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsections (e-1) and (e-2) to  
15 read as follows:

16 (e) If a person is initially awarded a TEXAS grant before  
17 the 2005 fall semester, the [A] person's eligibility for a TEXAS  
18 grant ends on the sixth anniversary of the initial award of a TEXAS  
19 grant to the person and the person's enrollment in an eligible  
20 institution, unless the person is provided additional time during  
21 which the person may receive a TEXAS grant under Subsection (e-2)  
22 [this subsection].

23 (e-1) If a person is initially awarded a TEXAS grant during  
24 or after the 2005 fall semester, unless the person is provided  
25 additional time during which the person may receive a TEXAS grant  
26 under Subsection (e-2), the person's eligibility for a TEXAS grant  
27 ends on:

1           (1) the fifth anniversary of the initial award of a  
2 TEXAS grant to the person, if the person is enrolled in a degree or  
3 certificate program of four years or less; or

4           (2) the sixth anniversary of the initial award of a  
5 TEXAS grant to the person, if the person is enrolled in a degree  
6 program of more than four years.

7           (e-2) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to provide a  
8 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a TEXAS grant  
9 additional time during which the person may receive a TEXAS grant in  
10 the event of a hardship or other good cause shown that prevents the  
11 person from continuing the person's enrollment during the period  
12 the person would otherwise have been eligible to receive a TEXAS  
13 grant, including a showing of a severe illness or other  
14 debilitating condition or that the person is or was responsible for  
15 the care of a sick, injured, or needy person.

16           SECTION 7. Section 56.305, Education Code, is amended by  
17 amending Subsections (e) and (g) and adding Subsection (e-1) to  
18 read as follows:

19           (e) For the purpose of this section, a person who is  
20 initially awarded a TEXAS grant before the 2005 fall semester makes  
21 satisfactory academic progress toward an undergraduate degree or  
22 certificate only if:

23           (1) in the person's first academic year the person  
24 meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the  
25 institution at which the person is enrolled; and

26           (2) in a subsequent academic year, the person:

27           (A) completes at least 75 percent of the semester



1 credit hours attempted in the student's most recent academic year;  
2 and

3 (B) earns an overall grade point average of at  
4 least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework  
5 previously attempted at institutions of higher education.

6 (e-1) For purposes of this section, a person who is  
7 initially awarded a TEXAS grant during or after the 2005 fall  
8 semester makes satisfactory academic progress toward an  
9 undergraduate degree or certificate only if:

10 (1) in the person's first academic year the person  
11 meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the  
12 institution at which the person is enrolled; and

13 (2) in a subsequent academic year, the person:

14 (A) completed at least 24 semester credit hours  
15 in the student's most recent academic year; and

16 (B) has earned an overall grade point average of  
17 at least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework  
18 previously attempted at institutions of higher education.

19 (g) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a  
20 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a TEXAS grant, in the  
21 event of a hardship or for other good cause shown, including a  
22 showing of a severe illness or other debilitating condition that  
23 may affect the person's academic performance or that the person is  
24 responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person and  
25 that the person's provision of care may affect the person's academic  
26 performance, to receive a TEXAS grant:

27 (1) while enrolled in a number of semester credit

1 hours that is less than the number of semester credit hours required  
2 under Subsection (a)(3); or

3 (2) if the student's grade point average or the  
4 student's completion rate or number of semester credit hours  
5 completed, as applicable, falls below the satisfactory academic  
6 progress requirements of Subsection (e) or (e-1).

7 SECTION 8. Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, is  
8 amended by adding Section 56.3071 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 56.3071. EFFECT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TUITION  
10 EQUALIZATION GRANT. (a) Notwithstanding Section 56.307, the  
11 total amount of financial aid that a student enrolled in a private  
12 or independent institution of higher education is eligible to  
13 receive in a state fiscal year from TEXAS grants awarded under this  
14 subchapter may not exceed the maximum amount the student may  
15 receive in tuition equalization grants in that fiscal year as  
16 determined under Subchapter F, Chapter 61.

17 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, a student enrolled in a  
18 private or independent institution of higher education may not  
19 receive a TEXAS grant under this subchapter and a tuition  
20 equalization grant under Subchapter F, Chapter 61, for the same  
21 semester or other term, regardless of whether the student is  
22 otherwise eligible for both grants during that semester or term. A  
23 student who but for this subsection would be awarded both a TEXAS  
24 grant and a tuition equalization grant for the same semester or  
25 other term is entitled to receive only the grant of the greater  
26 amount.

27 SECTION 9. Section 56.462, Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2           Sec. 56.462. LOAN FORGIVENESS. A student who receives a  
3 Texas B-On-time loan shall be forgiven the amount of the student's  
4 loan if the student is awarded an undergraduate certificate or  
5 degree at an eligible institution with a cumulative grade point  
6 average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent:

7           (1) within:

8                   (A) four calendar years after the date the  
9 student initially enrolled in the institution or another eligible  
10 institution if:

11                           (i) the institution is a four-year  
12 institution; and

13                           (ii) the student is awarded a degree other  
14 than a degree in engineering, architecture, or any other program  
15 determined by the coordinating board to require more than four  
16 years to complete;

17                   (B) five calendar years after the date the  
18 student initially enrolled in the institution or another eligible  
19 institution if:

20                           (i) the institution is a four-year  
21 institution; and

22                           (ii) the student is awarded a degree in  
23 engineering, architecture, or any other program determined by the  
24 coordinating board to require more than four years to complete; or

25                   (C) two years after the date the student  
26 initially enrolled in the institution or another eligible  
27 institution if the institution is a public junior college or public

1 technical institute; or

2 (2) with a total number of semester credit hours,  
3 including transfer credit hours and excluding hours earned  
4 exclusively by examination, hours earned for a course for which the  
5 student received credit toward the student's high school academic  
6 requirements, and hours earned for developmental coursework that an  
7 institution of higher education required the student to take under  
8 Section 51.3062 or under the former provisions of Section 51.306,  
9 that is not more than six hours more than the minimum number of  
10 semester credit hours required to complete the certificate or  
11 degree.

12 SECTION 10. Section 56.463(b), Education Code, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 (b) Money in the Texas B-On-time student loan account may be  
15 used only to pay any costs of the coordinating board related to the  
16 operation of the Texas B-On-time loan program and as otherwise  
17 provided by this subchapter.

18 SECTION 11. Section 56.465(b), Education Code, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 (b) The amount of tuition set aside under Subsection (a)  
21 shall be deposited to the credit of the Texas B-On-time student loan  
22 account established under Section 56.463 or to the interest and  
23 sinking fund established by the coordinating board under Section  
24 52.91(b) in accordance with the resolution of the board  
25 establishing such fund.

26 SECTION 12. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
27 amended by adding Section 61.0515 to read as follows:

1           Sec. 61.0515. SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR  
2 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE. (a) To earn a baccalaureate degree, a  
3 student may not be required by a general academic teaching  
4 institution to complete more than the minimum number of semester  
5 credit hours required for the degree by the Southern Association of  
6 Colleges and Schools or its successor unless the institution  
7 determines that there is a compelling academic reason for requiring  
8 completion of additional semester credit hours for the degree.

9           (b) The board may review one or more of an institution's  
10 baccalaureate degree programs to ensure compliance with this  
11 section.

12           (c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a baccalaureate degree  
13 awarded by an institution to a student enrolled in the institution  
14 before the 2008 fall semester. This subsection does not prohibit  
15 the institution from reducing the number of semester credit hours  
16 the student must complete to receive the degree.

17           SECTION 13. Section 61.0595, Education Code, is amended by  
18 amending Subsections (a) and (e) and adding Subsections (f) and (g)  
19 to read as follows:

20           (a) In the formulas established under Section 61.059, the  
21 board may not include funding for semester credit hours earned by a  
22 resident undergraduate student who before the semester or other  
23 academic session begins has previously attempted a number of  
24 semester credit hours for courses taken at any institution of  
25 higher education while classified as a resident student for tuition  
26 purposes that exceeds by at least 30 [~~45~~] hours the number of  
27 semester credit hours required for completion of the degree program

1 or programs in which the student is enrolled, including minors and  
2 double majors, and for completion of any certificate or other  
3 special program in which the student is also enrolled, including a  
4 program with a study-abroad component.

5 (e) Subsection (a) applies only [~~does not apply~~] to funding  
6 for semester credit hours earned by a student who initially  
7 enrolled as an undergraduate student in any institution of higher  
8 education during or after [~~before~~] the 1999 fall semester, except  
9 that with respect to semester credit hours earned by a student who  
10 initially enrolls as an undergraduate student in any institution of  
11 higher education before the 2006 fall semester, the board may not  
12 reduce funding under this section until the number of semester  
13 credit hours previously attempted by the student as described by  
14 this section exceeds the number of semester credit hours required  
15 for the student's degree program by at least 45 hours.

16 (f) In the formulas established under Section 61.059, the  
17 board shall include without consideration of Subsection (a) funding  
18 for semester credit hours earned by a student who initially  
19 enrolled as an undergraduate student in any institution of higher  
20 education before the 1999 fall semester [~~for those semester credit~~  
21 ~~hours without consideration of Subsection (a)]].~~

22 (g) To the extent practicable, the savings to the state  
23 resulting from the exclusion of funding for excess undergraduate  
24 semester credit hours from the funding formulas of the board as  
25 required by this section shall be used to finance the Toward  
26 EXcellence, Access, & Success (TEXAS) grant program under  
27 Subchapter M, Chapter 56.

1 SECTION 14. Section 61.225, Education Code, is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 61.225. ELIGIBILITY [~~QUALIFICATIONS~~] FOR GRANT;  
4 PERSONS AWARDED GRANTS BEFORE 2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR. (a) This  
5 section applies only to a person who initially received a tuition  
6 equalization grant before the 2005-2006 academic year.

7 (b) To be eligible for a tuition equalization grant, a  
8 person must:

9 (1) be a Texas resident as defined by the coordinating  
10 board and meet, at a minimum, the resident requirements defined by  
11 law for Texas resident tuition in fully state-supported  
12 institutions of higher education;

13 (2) be enrolled for at least one-half of a full course  
14 load conforming to an individual degree plan in an approved college  
15 or university;

16 (3) be required to pay more tuition than is required at  
17 a public college or university and be charged no less than the  
18 regular tuition required of all students enrolled at the  
19 institution;

20 (4) establish financial need in accordance with  
21 procedures and regulations of the coordinating board;

22 (5) not be a recipient of any form of athletic  
23 scholarship; and

24 (6) have complied with other requirements adopted by  
25 the coordinating board under this subchapter.

26 (c) A grant to a part-time student under this section shall  
27 be made on a pro rata basis of a full-time equivalent.

1 SECTION 15. Subchapter F, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
2 amended by adding Section 61.2251 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 61.2251. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT; PERSONS INITIALLY  
4 AWARDED GRANTS DURING OR AFTER 2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR. (a) This  
5 section does not apply to a person who initially received a tuition  
6 equalization grant before the 2005-2006 academic year.

7 (b) To be eligible for a tuition equalization grant in the  
8 first academic year in which the person receives the grant, a person  
9 must:

10 (1) be a Texas resident as defined by the coordinating  
11 board and meet, at a minimum, the resident requirements defined by  
12 law for Texas resident tuition in fully state-supported  
13 institutions of higher education;

14 (2) be enrolled for a full course load conforming to an  
15 individual degree plan in an approved college or university;

16 (3) be required to pay more tuition than is required at  
17 a public college or university and be charged no less than the  
18 regular tuition required of all students enrolled at the  
19 institution;

20 (4) establish financial need in accordance with  
21 procedures and regulations of the coordinating board;

22 (5) not be a recipient of any form of athletic  
23 scholarship; and

24 (6) have complied with other requirements adopted by  
25 the coordinating board under this subchapter.

26 (c) After qualifying for a tuition equalization grant under  
27 Subsection (b), a person may receive a tuition equalization grant



1 in a subsequent academic year in which the person is enrolled at an  
2 approved institution only if the person:

3 (1) meets the requirements of Subsection (b);

4 (2) completed at least:

5 (A) 24 semester credit hours in the person's most  
6 recent academic year, if the person is enrolled in an undergraduate  
7 degree or certificate program; or

8 (B) 18 semester credit hours in the person's most  
9 recent academic year, if the person is enrolled in a graduate or  
10 professional degree program; and

11 (3) has earned an overall grade point average of at  
12 least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework  
13 previously attempted at public or private institutions of higher  
14 education.

15 (d) Notwithstanding Subsections (b) and (c), a person's  
16 eligibility for a tuition equalization grant ends on:

17 (1) the fifth anniversary of the initial award of a  
18 tuition equalization grant to the person, if the person is enrolled  
19 in an undergraduate degree or certificate program of four years or  
20 less; or

21 (2) the sixth anniversary of the initial award of a  
22 tuition equalization grant to the person, if the person is enrolled  
23 in an undergraduate degree program of more than four years.

24 (e) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a  
25 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a tuition equalization  
26 grant, in the event of a hardship or for other good cause shown, to  
27 receive a tuition equalization grant if the person does not:

1           (1) complete the semester credit hours required by  
2 Subsection (c)(2);

3           (2) maintain the grade point average required by  
4 Subsection (c)(3); or

5           (3) complete the person's certificate or degree  
6 program within the period prescribed by Subsection (d).

7           SECTION 16. Section 61.227, Education Code, is amended by  
8 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
9 follows:

10           (c) In no event shall a tuition equalization grant paid  
11 pursuant to this subchapter in behalf of any student during any one  
12 fiscal year exceed an amount equal to 50 percent of the average  
13 state appropriation in the biennium preceding the biennium in which  
14 the grant is made for a full-time student or the equivalent at  
15 public senior colleges and universities, as determined by the  
16 board. [~~A grant to a part-time student shall be made on a pro-rata~~  
17 ~~basis of a full-time equivalent.~~]

18           (d) Notwithstanding any other law, a student enrolled in a  
19 private or independent institution of higher education may not  
20 receive a tuition equalization grant under this subchapter and a  
21 TEXAS grant under Subchapter M, Chapter 56, for the same semester or  
22 other term, regardless of whether the student is otherwise eligible  
23 for both grants during that semester or term. A student who but for  
24 this subsection would be awarded both a tuition equalization grant  
25 and a TEXAS grant for the same semester or other term is entitled to  
26 receive only the grant of the greater amount.

27           SECTION 17. Section 56.307(h), Education Code, is repealed.

1           SECTION 18. (a) The change in law made by this Act to  
2 Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, applies beginning with  
3 the 2005-2006 academic year, but does not affect the amount of or  
4 entitlement to any grant awarded before the effective date of this  
5 Act.

6           (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Section 56.076,  
7 Education Code, apply only to an agreement entered into by an  
8 institution of higher education and an employer under that section  
9 on or after the effective date of this Act.

10          (c) The changes in law made by this Act to Section 56.462,  
11 Education Code, apply to a student who is awarded an undergraduate  
12 certificate or degree on or after the effective date of this Act,  
13 without regard to when the student is awarded a Texas B-On-time  
14 loan.

15          (d) The changes in law made by this Act by amending Sections  
16 61.225 and 61.227, Education Code, and by adding Section 61.2251,  
17 Education Code, apply beginning with tuition equalization grants  
18 for the 2005-2006 academic year, but only for tuition equalization  
19 grants awarded on or after the effective date of this Act. A  
20 tuition equalization grant awarded before the effective date of  
21 this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the  
22 effective date, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
23 purpose.

24          SECTION 19. (a) The changes in law made by this Act to  
25 Sections 54.068 and 61.0595, Education Code, apply beginning with  
26 the 2005 fall semester.

27          (b) Not later than May 31, 2006, the Texas Higher Education

1 Coordinating Board shall adopt the rules required by Section  
2 61.0515, Education Code, as added by this Act, relating to the  
3 number of semester credit hours required for completion of a  
4 baccalaureate degree program at a general academic teaching  
5 institution.

6 (c) Not later than May 31, 2006, the Texas Higher Education  
7 Coordinating Board shall develop recommendations for the core  
8 curriculum to conform to the requirements of Section 61.822,  
9 Education Code, as amended by this Act. Each public institution of  
10 higher education in this state shall revise its core curriculum as  
11 necessary to conform to the requirements of Section 61.822,  
12 Education Code, as amended by this Act, and shall require students  
13 to comply with the institution's revised core curriculum beginning  
14 with the 2008 fall semester, except that an institution shall  
15 permit a student who was enrolled in the institution before the 2008  
16 fall semester to comply with the core curriculum requirements  
17 applicable to that student before that semester. Each institution  
18 of higher education shall issue course catalogs that reflect the  
19 applicable core curriculum under Section 61.822, Education Code,  
20 consistent with this subsection. This subsection expires at the  
21 beginning of the 2010 fall semester.

22 (d) The change in law made by this Act to Subsection (c),  
23 Section 61.822, Education Code, applies to students who transfer  
24 between institutions of higher education beginning with the 2008  
25 fall semester. Students who transfer between institutions of  
26 higher education before the 2008 fall semester are covered by  
27 Subsection (c), Section 61.822, Education Code, as that subsection

1 existed before its amendment by this Act, and that law is continued  
2 in effect for that purpose.

3 SECTION 20. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
4 shall, as necessary, adopt rules consistent with Sections 52.91,  
5 56.463, and 56.465, Education Code, as amended by this Act, as soon  
6 as practicable after this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the  
7 coordinating board may adopt the rules in the manner provided by law  
8 for emergency rules.

9 SECTION 21. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
10 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
11 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  
12 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate  
13 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1172 was passed by the House on May 3, 2005, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1172 on May 26, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1172 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor