

By: Hope

H.B. No. 1278

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to academic advisors at public institutions of higher
3 education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 51.954 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.954. ACADEMIC ADVISORS. (a) In this section:

8 (1) "Academic advisor" means any person employed by an
9 institution of higher education whose primary employment
10 responsibility is to advise students concerning academic policies
11 and procedures, such as course requirements for a particular degree
12 plan, course load or other academic requirements, and degree
13 progress. The term does not apply to a person employed by the
14 institution whose primary employment responsibility is to provide
15 career counseling services to students.

16 (2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
17 assigned by Section 61.003.

18 (b) A person may not serve as an academic advisor at an
19 institution of higher education unless the person has:

20 (1) earned a baccalaureate or advanced degree in any
21 field; and

22 (2) completed a specialized training process for
23 academic advisors as provided by Subsection (c).

24 (c) Each institution of higher education shall develop and

1 provide training for academic advisors at the institution. The
2 training must address:

3 (1) the detailed requirements, policies, and
4 procedures about which the advisor will be authorized to advise
5 students; and

6 (2) effective methods for communicating that advice to
7 students.

8 SECTION 2. (a) Each public institution of higher education
9 shall develop and begin to offer the training for academic advisors
10 required by Section 51.954(c), Education Code, as added by this
11 Act, not later than May 1, 2006.

12 (b) Section 51.954(b), Education Code, as added by this Act,
13 applies to a person serving as an academic advisor at a public
14 institution of higher education beginning with the 2006 fall
15 semester.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.