

1-1 By: Deuell S.B. No. 511
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 15, 2005; February 28, 2005,
1-3 read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
1-4 March 14, 2005, reported favorably to Committee on Education;
1-5 March 29, 2005, reported favorably from Committee on Education by
1-6 the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; March 29, 2005, sent to
1-7 printer.)

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to public testimony at regular meetings of the governing
1-11 board of a general academic teaching institution.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 51.355 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 51.355. PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT CERTAIN MEETINGS OF
1-16 GOVERNING BOARDS OF GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS.

1-17 (a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution" has
1-18 the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

1-19 (b) The governing board of each general academic teaching
1-20 institution or of a university system that includes one or more
1-21 component general academic teaching institutions shall adopt a
1-22 policy that allows the public to present, for a reasonable amount of
1-23 time and for any item on the agenda, both written and oral testimony
1-24 at a regular meeting of the board.

1-25 (c) The governing board shall consider the public testimony
1-26 presented to the board on an issue before making a decision on the
1-27 issue.

1-28 SECTION 2. The governing board of each general academic
1-29 teaching institution or university system shall adopt the policy
1-30 required by Section 51.355, Education Code, as added by this Act,
1-31 not later than October 1, 2005.

1-32 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-33 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-34 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-35 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-36 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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