

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1529
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2005; March 22, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 12, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute to Committee on Education; April 25, 2005, reported
1-6 adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute from Committee on
1-7 Education by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 25, 2005,
1-8 sent to printer.)

1-9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1529 By: Zaffirini

1-10 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-11 AN ACT

1-12 relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of
1-13 students from public institutions of higher education.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
1-16 amended by adding Section 51.4032 to read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 51.4032. REPORT OF EFFORTS CONCERNING TIMELY
1-18 GRADUATION. (a) Not later than November 1 of each year, the
1-19 president of each general academic teaching institution, as defined
1-20 by Section 61.003, shall provide to the governing board of the
1-21 institution a report for the preceding academic year that examines
1-22 the institution's efforts concerning timely graduation of its
1-23 undergraduate students.

1-24 (b) The report must:

1-25 (1) state, for each undergraduate degree program, the
1-26 average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average
1-27 number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student
1-28 completing the program;

1-29 (2) state the specific efforts implemented by the
1-30 institution to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a
1-31 timely manner and do not attempt an excessive number of semester
1-32 credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the
1-33 students' degree programs, including the institution's efforts to
1-34 provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation and to
1-35 implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation; and

1-36 (3) include any other information required by the
1-37 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

1-38 (c) An institution's report must be in the form prescribed
1-39 by coordinating board rule adopted in consultation with general
1-40 academic teaching institutions.

1-41 SECTION 2. Section 54.068, Education Code, is amended to
1-42 read as follows:

1-43 Sec. 54.068. TUITION FOR REPEATED OR EXCESSIVE
1-44 UNDERGRADUATE HOURS. (a) An institution of higher education may
1-45 charge a resident undergraduate student tuition at a higher rate
1-46 than the rate charged to other resident undergraduate students, not
1-47 to exceed the rate charged to nonresident undergraduate students,
1-48 if before the semester or other academic session begins the student
1-49 has previously attempted a number of semester credit hours for
1-50 courses taken at any institution of higher education while
1-51 classified as a resident student for tuition purposes that exceeds
1-52 by at least 30 [~~45~~] hours the number of semester credit hours
1-53 required for completion of the degree program in which the student
1-54 is enrolled. For purposes of this subsection, an undergraduate
1-55 student who is not enrolled in a degree program is considered to be
1-56 enrolled in a degree program requiring a minimum of 120 semester
1-57 credit hours. An institution of higher education that charges
1-58 students tuition at a higher rate under this subsection may adopt a
1-59 policy under which the institution exempts from the payment of that
1-60 higher rate a student that is subject to the payment of the higher
1-61 rate solely as a result of hardship as determined by the institution
1-62 under the policy.

1-63 (b) Semester credit hours or other credit listed in Section

2-1 61.0595(d) is not counted in determining the number of semester
 2-2 credit hours previously attempted by a student for purposes of
 2-3 Subsection (a).

2-4 (c) Subsection (a) applies only [~~does not apply~~] to the
 2-5 tuition charged to a student who initially enrolled as an
 2-6 undergraduate student in an institution of higher education during
 2-7 or after [~~before~~] the 1999 fall semester, except that the
 2-8 institution of higher education may not require a student who
 2-9 initially enrolls as an undergraduate student in an institution of
 2-10 higher education before the 2006 fall semester to pay higher
 2-11 tuition as permitted by Subsection (a) until the number of semester
 2-12 credit hours previously attempted by the student as described by
 2-13 that subsection exceeds the number of semester credit hours
 2-14 required for the student's degree program by at least 45 hours

2-15 (d) In its appropriations to institutions of higher
 2-16 education, the legislature shall compute the local funds available
 2-17 to each institution as if the tuition collected under Subsections
 2-18 [~~Subsection~~] (a) and (f) were not collected.

2-19 (e) Each institution of higher education shall inform each
 2-20 new undergraduate student enrolling at the institution in writing
 2-21 of the limitation provided by this section on the number of hours or
 2-22 type of courses that a Texas resident is entitled to complete while
 2-23 paying tuition at the rate provided for Texas residents.

2-24 (f) An institution of higher education may charge a resident
 2-25 undergraduate student tuition at a higher rate than the rate
 2-26 charged to other resident undergraduate students, not to exceed the
 2-27 rate charged to nonresident undergraduate students, for any course
 2-28 in which the student enrolls that is the same as or substantively
 2-29 identical to a course for which the student previously completed.
 2-30 The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt a rule
 2-31 that exempts a resident undergraduate student from this subsection
 2-32 if the student enrolls in a course that is the same as or
 2-33 substantially similar to a course that the student previously
 2-34 completed, solely as a result of a hardship or other good cause.

2-35 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 2-36 amended by adding Section 61.0515 to read as follows:

2-37 Sec. 61.0515. SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR
 2-38 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE. (a) To earn a baccalaureate degree, a
 2-39 student may not be required by a general academic teaching
 2-40 institution to complete more than the minimum number of semester
 2-41 credit hours required for the degree by the Southern Association of
 2-42 Colleges and Schools or its successor unless the institution
 2-43 determines that there is a compelling academic reason for requiring
 2-44 completion of additional semester credit hours for the degree under
 2-45 standards prescribed by the board.

2-46 (b) The board by rule shall prescribe standards for
 2-47 determining whether there is a compelling academic reason for an
 2-48 institution to require completion of additional semester credit
 2-49 hours for a particular baccalaureate degree. A compelling academic
 2-50 reason may include certification, industry, or national academic
 2-51 accreditation requirements.

2-52 (c) The board may review one or more of an institution's
 2-53 baccalaureate degree programs to ensure compliance with this
 2-54 section.

2-55 (d) Subsection (a) does not apply to a baccalaureate degree
 2-56 awarded by an institution to a student enrolled in the institution
 2-57 before the 2008 fall semester. This subsection does not prohibit
 2-58 the institution from reducing the number of semester credit hours
 2-59 the student must complete to receive the degree.

2-60 SECTION 4. Section 61.0595, Education Code, is amended by
 2-61 amending Subsections (a) and (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read
 2-62 as follows:

2-63 (a) In the formulas established under Section 61.059, the
 2-64 board may not include funding for semester credit hours earned by a
 2-65 resident undergraduate student who before the semester or other
 2-66 academic session begins has previously attempted a number of
 2-67 semester credit hours for courses taken at any institution of
 2-68 higher education while classified as a resident student for tuition
 2-69 purposes that exceeds by a least 30 [~~45~~] hours the number of

3-1 semester credit hours required for completion of the degree program
3-2 in which the student is enrolled.

3-3 (e) Subsection (a) applies only [~~does not apply~~] to funding
3-4 for semester credit hours earned by a student who initially
3-5 enrolled as an undergraduate student in any institution of higher
3-6 education during or after [~~before~~] the 1999 fall semester, except
3-7 that with respect to semester credit hours earned by a student who
3-8 initially enrolls as an undergraduate student in any institution of
3-9 higher education before the 2006 fall semester, the board may not
3-10 reduce funding under this section until the number of semester
3-11 credit hours previously attempted by the student as described by
3-12 this section exceeds the number of semester credit hours required
3-13 for the student's degree program by at least 45 hours

3-14 (f) In the formulas established under Section 61.059, the
3-15 board shall include without consideration of Subsection (a) funding
3-16 for semester credit hours earned by a student who initially
3-17 enrolled as an undergraduate student in any institution of higher
3-18 education before the 1999 fall semester [~~for those semester credit~~
3-19 ~~hours without consideration of Subsection (a)].~~

3-20 SECTION 5. Subsections (a), (b), and (c), Section 61.822,
3-21 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

3-22 (a) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees
3-23 composed of representatives of institutions of higher education,
3-24 shall develop recommendations for a [~~recommended~~] core curriculum
3-25 that could be satisfied through completion of a number of [~~at least~~
3-26 ~~42~~] semester credit hours permitted by Subsection (b). The
3-27 recommendations must include [~~, including~~] a statement of the
3-28 content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum.
3-29 At least a majority of the members of any advisory committee named
3-30 under this section must [~~shall~~] be faculty members of an
3-31 institution of higher education. An institution shall consult with
3-32 the faculty of the institution before nominating or recommending a
3-33 person to the board as the institution's representative on an
3-34 advisory committee.

3-35 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
3-36 curriculum of not fewer than 36 and not more [~~no less~~] than 42
3-37 semester credit hours, including specific courses comprising the
3-38 curriculum. The core curriculum must [~~shall~~] be consistent with
3-39 the common course numbering system approved by the board and with
3-40 the statement, recommendations, and rules issued by the board. [~~An~~
3-41 ~~institution may have a core curriculum of other than 42 semester~~
3-42 ~~credit hours only if approved by the board.~~]

3-43 (c) If a student successfully completes the [~~42-hour~~] core
3-44 curriculum at an institution of higher education, that block of
3-45 courses may be transferred to any other institution of higher
3-46 education and must be substituted for the receiving institution's
3-47 core curriculum. A student shall receive academic credit for each
3-48 of the courses transferred and may not be required to take
3-49 additional core curriculum courses at the receiving institution
3-50 unless the receiving institution [~~board~~] has adopted [~~approved~~] a
3-51 [~~larger~~] core curriculum that requires completion of more semester
3-52 credit hours than the sending [~~at the~~] institution.

3-53 SECTION 6. (a) The changes in law made by this Act to
3-54 Sections 54.068 and 61.0595, Education Code, apply beginning with
3-55 the 2005 fall semester.

3-56 (b) Not later than May 31, 2006, the Texas Higher Education
3-57 Coordinating Board shall adopt the rules required by Section
3-58 61.0515, Education Code, as added by this Act, relating to the
3-59 number of semester credit hours required for completion of a
3-60 baccalaureate degree program at a general academic teaching
3-61 institution.

3-62 (c) Not later than May 31, 2006, the Texas Higher Education
3-63 Coordinating Board shall develop recommendations for the core
3-64 curriculum to conform to the requirements of Section 61.822,
3-65 Education Code, as amended by this Act. Each public institution of
3-66 higher education in this state shall revise its core curriculum as
3-67 necessary to conform to the requirements of Section 61.822,
3-68 Education Code, as amended by this Act, and shall require students
3-69 to comply with the institution's revised core curriculum beginning

4-1 with the 2008 fall semester, except that an institution shall
4-2 permit a student who was enrolled in the institution before the 2008
4-3 fall semester to comply with the core curriculum requirements
4-4 applicable to that student before that semester. Each institution
4-5 of higher education shall issue course catalogs that reflect the
4-6 applicable core curriculum under Section 61.822, Education Code,
4-7 consistent with this subsection. This subsection expires at the
4-8 beginning of the 2010 fall semester.

4-9 (d) The change in law made by this Act to Subsection (c),
4-10 Section 61.822, Education Code, applies to students who transfer
4-11 between institutions of higher education beginning with the 2008
4-12 fall semester. Students who transfer between institutions of
4-13 higher education before the 2008 fall semester are covered by
4-14 Subsection (c), Section 61.822, Education Code, as that subsection
4-15 existed before its amendment by this Act, and that law is continued
4-16 in effect for that purpose.

4-17 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4-18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4-19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4-20 Act does receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act
4-21 takes effect September 1, 2005.

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