

By: Giddings

H.B. No. 2225

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to student representation on the Texas Higher Education  
3 Coordinating Board and certain coordinating board advisory  
4 committees.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 61.0225 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0225. NONVOTING STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE. (a) In  
9 this section:

10 (1) "Board" means the Texas Higher Education  
11 Coordinating Board or its successor agency.

12 (2) "Student government" means the representative  
13 student organization directly elected by the student body of an  
14 institution of higher education.

15 (b) The president of each institution of higher education  
16 shall develop a uniform application form to be used by the  
17 institution to solicit applicants for the position of student  
18 representative to the board.

19 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (g), not later than  
20 September 1 of each year, the student government of each  
21 institution of higher education shall solicit applicants for  
22 appointment to the next regular term of the position of student  
23 representative. Not later than November 1, from among the  
24 applications received by the student government, the student

1 government shall select five applicants as the student government's  
2 recommendations for the position of student representative and send  
3 the applications of those applicants, with the name of each  
4 applicant removed, to the president of the institution. From among  
5 those applicants, the president shall select two or more applicants  
6 as the institution's recommendations for the position of student  
7 representative and shall send the applications of those applicants,  
8 with the name of the institution in which the applicants are  
9 enrolled removed, to the governor not later than December 1. The  
10 governor may request to review all applications for the position of  
11 student representative received by the student governments and may  
12 request to review information required to be removed from an  
13 application by a student government or the president of an  
14 institution under this subsection. On February 1, or as soon  
15 thereafter as practicable, the governor, with the advice and  
16 consent of the senate, shall appoint one of the applicants to serve  
17 as the student representative for the board for a one-year term  
18 expiring on the next February 1. The governor is not required to  
19 appoint an applicant recommended by the president of an institution  
20 of higher education.

21 (d) A student representative must be enrolled as an  
22 undergraduate or graduate student in an institution of higher  
23 education at the time of appointment and throughout the student  
24 representative's term. For purposes of this subsection, a person  
25 is considered to be enrolled in an institution for a summer term if  
26 the person was enrolled in the institution for the preceding  
27 semester and:

1           (1) is registered or preregistered at the institution  
2 for the following fall semester;

3           (2) if the person has not completed the person's degree  
4 program, is eligible to continue the degree program at the  
5 institution in the following fall semester; or

6           (3) if the person completed a degree program in the  
7 preceding semester, is admitted to another degree program at the  
8 institution for the following fall semester.

9           (e) A student representative has the same powers and duties  
10 as the members of the board, including the right to attend and  
11 participate in meetings of the board, except that the student  
12 representative:

13           (1) may not vote on any matter before the board or make  
14 or second any motion before the board; and

15           (2) is not counted in determining whether a quorum  
16 exists for a meeting of the board or in determining the outcome of  
17 any vote of the board.

18           (f) A student representative serves without compensation  
19 but is entitled to be reimbursed for the actual expenses incurred by  
20 the student representative in attending the meetings of the board,  
21 subject to the approval of the chairman of the board.

22           (g) The student government of the institution of higher  
23 education at which a current student representative was enrolled at  
24 the time of the student representative's appointment may not  
25 solicit applicants for the position of student representative for  
26 the next regular term of the position.

27           (h) A vacancy in the position of student representative

1 shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the  
2 governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
4 amended by adding Section 61.071 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 61.071. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CERTAIN BOARD  
6 ADVISORY COMMITTEES. (a) In this section:

7 (1) "Board" means the Texas Higher Education  
8 Coordinating Board or its successor agency.

9 (2) "Student government" means the representative  
10 student organization directly elected by the student body of an  
11 institution of higher education.

12 (b) The president of an institution of higher education may  
13 solicit applicants for student representatives for the board  
14 advisory committee for:

15 (1) common application, established under Section  
16 51.762;

17 (2) core curriculum, established under Section  
18 61.822;

19 (3) distance education, established under Section  
20 61.0771;

21 (4) financial aid, established under Section 61.0776;

22 (5) graduate education;

23 (6) undergraduate education; and

24 (7) transfer issues.

25 (c) Not later than September 1 of each year, the student  
26 government of the institution shall review any applications  
27 received for appointment to the next regular term of the position of

1 student representative for one or more of the advisory committees  
2 described by Subsection (b). Not later than November 1, from among  
3 the applications received by the student government for the  
4 committee positions, the student government may select no more than  
5 five applicants as the student government's recommendations for the  
6 position of student representative for one or more of the committee  
7 positions and send the applications of those applicants, with the  
8 name of each applicant removed, to the president of the  
9 institution. From among those applicants, the president may select  
10 two or more applicants as the institution's recommendations for the  
11 position of student representative for one or more of the committee  
12 positions and shall send the applications of those applicants, if  
13 any, with the name of the institution in which the applicants are  
14 enrolled removed, to the board not later than December 1. The board  
15 may request to review all applications for the position of student  
16 representative received by the student government and may request  
17 to review information required to be removed from an application by  
18 the student government or the president of an institution under  
19 this subsection. On February 1, or as soon thereafter as  
20 practicable, the board shall appoint to each advisory committee one  
21 of the applicants to serve as the student representative on the  
22 committee for a one-year term expiring on the next February 1. The  
23 board is not required to appoint an applicant recommended by the  
24 president of an institution of higher education as the student  
25 representative on an advisory committee.

26 (d) A student representative must be enrolled as an  
27 undergraduate or graduate student in an institution of higher

1 education at the time of appointment and throughout the student  
2 representative's term. For purposes of this subsection, a person  
3 is considered to be enrolled in an institution for a summer term if  
4 the person was enrolled in the institution for the preceding  
5 semester and:

6 (1) is registered or preregistered at the institution  
7 for the following fall semester;

8 (2) if the person has not completed the person's degree  
9 program, is eligible to continue the degree program at the  
10 institution in the following fall semester; or

11 (3) if the person completed a degree program in the  
12 preceding semester, is admitted to another degree program at the  
13 institution for the following fall semester.

14 (e) A student representative on an advisory committee has  
15 the same powers and duties as the members of the advisory committee,  
16 including the right to attend and participate in meetings of the  
17 committee, except that the student representative:

18 (1) may not vote on any matter before the committee or  
19 make or second any motion before the committee; and

20 (2) is not counted in determining whether a quorum  
21 exists for a meeting of the committee or in determining the outcome  
22 of any vote of the committee.

23 (f) A student representative serves without compensation  
24 but is entitled to be reimbursed for the actual expenses incurred by  
25 the student representative in attending the meetings of the  
26 advisory committee, subject to the approval of the chairman of the  
27 board.

1        (g) A vacancy in the position of student representative on  
2 an advisory committee shall be filled for the unexpired term by  
3 appointment by the board.

4        SECTION 3. The initial term of a student representative  
5 appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under  
6 Section 61.0225, Education Code, as added by this Act, or for a  
7 coordinating board advisory committee under Section 61.071,  
8 Education Code, as added by this Act, expires February 1, 2009. The  
9 appropriate student governments, the president of each institution  
10 of higher education, the coordinating board, and the governor shall  
11 take the actions required by Sections 61.0225 and 61.071, Education  
12 Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after this Act  
13 takes effect to select a student representative for the  
14 coordinating board and each of the advisory committees for that  
15 initial term.

16        SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.