

By: Morrison

H.B. No. 2979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study regarding state financial assistance to students enrolled at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.051, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-5) to read as follows:

(a-5) The board and the Legislative Budget Board jointly shall study and evaluate the feasibility and economic effectiveness of using the TEXAS grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 56, to provide financial assistance primarily to lower-division students enrolled at institutions of higher education and the Texas B-On-time loan program under Subchapter Q, Chapter 56, to provide financial assistance primarily to upper-division students enrolled at those institutions. As part of the biennial report submitted by the board to the 81st Legislature under Subsection (a-3), the board and the Legislative Budget Board jointly shall report the results of the study to the legislature. The report must include any recommendation of the board and the Legislative Budget Board for legislation or administrative action, including changes to state agency rules and other changes necessary to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the use of money to fund the TEXAS grant program and the Texas B-On-time loan program. A recommendation under this subsection must include an explanation of the basis for the recommendation. Not later than December 1, 2008, the board and the

1 Legislative Budget Board shall submit a copy of the financial
2 assistance report required by this subsection to the governor, the
3 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
4 representatives. This subsection expires January 31, 2009.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.