

By: West, Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) A student representative shall be appointed to the board. The student representative is not a state officer. Except as otherwise provided by this section, the appointment of a student representative to the board shall be made in the same manner as a student regent is appointed under Section 51.355(c). The student representative to the board serves a term that is the same as the term of a student regent appointed under Section 51.355.

(c) The board shall develop a uniform application form to be used by each institution of higher education to solicit applicants for the position of student representative to the board.

1 (d) For an institution of higher education that is not part
2 of a university system, the president of the institution, from
3 among the applicants selected as the student government's
4 recommendations for the position of student representative to the
5 board, shall select two or more applicants as the institution's
6 recommendations for the position and send the applications of those
7 applicants to the governor in accordance with the deadline
8 established under Section 51.355(c) for a chancellor to send
9 applications to the governor for a student regent.

10 (e) A student representative to the board must meet the
11 minimum requirements prescribed by Section 51.355(d) for a student
12 regent, as those requirements apply to an institution of higher
13 education.

14 (f) The student representative has the same powers and
15 duties as the members of the board, including the right to attend
16 and participate in meetings of the board, except that the student
17 representative:

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

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

23 (g) The student representative serves without pay but shall
24 be reimbursed for the actual expenses incurred by the student
25 representative in attending the meetings of the board or in
26 attending to other work of the board when that work is approved by
27 the chairman of the board.

1 (h) The student government of the institution of higher
2 education at which a current student representative was enrolled at
3 the time of the student representative's appointment may not
4 solicit applicants for the position of student representative for
5 the next regular term of the position.

6 (i) A vacancy in the position of student representative
7 shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the
8 governor.

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

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

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

15 (2) "Student government" means the representative
16 student organization directly elected by the student body of an
17 institution of higher education.

18 (b) Not later than August 1 of each year, the board shall
19 provide the following to each institution of higher education:

20 (1) a list of available positions for student
21 representatives on board advisory committees, the effective terms
22 of those positions, and the duties and requirements for each
23 position;

24 (2) a maximum number of nominees determined by the
25 board allowed to be submitted by each institution for each
26 position; and

27 (3) an application form for appointment to an advisory

1 committee.

2 (c) Not later than September 1 of each year, the president
3 of each institution of higher education shall establish a
4 nomination process for the available positions for student
5 representatives on board advisory committees and shall solicit
6 student applications from which the president may select a number
7 of applicants for those positions, not to exceed the maximum number
8 designated by the board for each position.

9 (d) Not later than December 1, the president shall forward
10 the applications of the nominees selected by the president to the
11 board for consideration. Not later than February 1, the board shall
12 appoint a total of not less than four student representatives to
13 designated advisory committees of the board, including the Common
14 Application Advisory Committee, the Distance Education Advisory
15 Committee, the Financial Aid Advisory Committee, the Undergraduate
16 Education Advisory Committee, the Transfer Issues Advisory
17 Committee, or any other advisory committee created to address the
18 needs of higher education, including committees addressing
19 financial aid, student services, and undergraduate education
20 needs.

21 (e) A student representative on an advisory committee must
22 meet minimum requirements prescribed by Section 51.355(d) for a
23 nonvoting student regent, as those requirements apply to an
24 institution of higher education.

25 (f) A student representative on an advisory committee has
26 the same powers and duties as the members of the advisory committee,
27 including the right to attend and participate in meetings of the

1 committee, except that the student representative:

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

4 (2) is not counted in determining whether a quorum
5 exists for a meeting of the committee or in determining the outcome
6 of any vote of the committee.

7 (g) A student representative on an advisory committee
8 serves without pay.

9 (h) A vacancy in the position of student representative on
10 an advisory committee shall be filled for the unexpired term by
11 appointment by the board.

12 SECTION 3. The initial term of a student representative
13 appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under
14 Section 61.0225, Education Code, as added by this Act, or for a
15 coordinating board advisory committee under Section 61.071,
16 Education Code, as added by this Act, expires May 31, 2009. The
17 appropriate student governments, the president of each institution
18 of higher education, the coordinating board, and the governor shall
19 take the actions required by Sections 61.0225 and 61.071, Education
20 Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after this Act
21 takes effect to select the initial student representative to the
22 coordinating board and the initial student representatives on
23 advisory committees of the coordinating board.

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