

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1050

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of the work-study student mentorship program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56.079, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 56.079. WORK-STUDY STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Eligible institution" means:

(A) an institution of higher education; or

(B) a private or independent institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003(15), other than a private or independent institution of higher education offering only professional or graduate degrees.

(3) "Participating entity" means an eligible institution, a school district, or a nonprofit organization that has filed a memorandum of understanding with the coordinating board under this section to participate in the work-study student mentorship program established under this section[~~,"general academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003].~~

(b) In accordance with this section and coordinating board

1 rules, the coordinating board shall administer [~~A general academic~~  
2 ~~teaching institution may establish~~] a work-study student  
3 mentorship program under which students who are enrolled [~~in their~~  
4 ~~junior or senior year~~] at participating eligible institutions [~~the~~  
5 ~~institution~~] and who meet the eligibility requirements for  
6 employment in the Texas college work-study program under Section  
7 56.075 may be employed by participating entities [~~the institution~~]  
8 under the Texas college work-study program to:

9       (1) mentor students at participating eligible  
10 institutions or high school students in participating school  
11 districts; or

12       (2) counsel high school students at GO Centers or  
13 similar high school-based recruiting centers designed to improve  
14 student access to higher education [~~who are on academic probation~~  
15 ~~at the institution~~].

16       (c) To participate in the work-study student mentorship  
17 program, an eligible institution and one or more school districts  
18 or nonprofit organizations interested in jointly participating in  
19 the program shall file with the coordinating board a joint  
20 memorandum of understanding detailing the roles and  
21 responsibilities of the participating entities.

22       (d) The coordinating board, in consultation with eligible  
23 institutions, school districts, and nonprofit organizations that  
24 express interest in participating in the work-study student  
25 mentorship program, shall develop a standard contract establishing  
26 the roles and responsibilities of participating entities to be used  
27 as a model for a memorandum of understanding entered into by

1 participating entities under Subsection (c).

2 (e) The coordinating board:

3 (1) shall establish criteria to ensure that the  
4 participating eligible institution's contribution toward the wages  
5 and benefits of a student employed as a mentor under the work-study  
6 student mentorship program is matched by funds provided by the  
7 participating entity benefiting from the services of the employed  
8 student in an amount that is at least equal to the amount of the  
9 participating eligible institution's contribution;

10 (2) may accept appropriate in-kind contributions from  
11 participating nonprofit organizations to satisfy the matching  
12 funds requirement of this subsection; and

13 (3) may waive the matching funds requirement of this  
14 subsection for a participating entity that meets criteria  
15 established by the coordinating board for a waiver.

16 (f) The coordinating board shall partner with participating  
17 nonprofit organizations to establish additional GO Centers or  
18 similar high school-based recruiting centers designed to improve  
19 student access to higher education in this state.

20 (g) The coordinating board shall ensure that each student  
21 employed under the work-study student mentorship program:

22 (1) receives appropriate training and supervision;  
23 and

24 (2) is paid at least at the minimum wage required by  
25 law.

26 (h) The coordinating board may accept gifts, grants, and  
27 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this

1 section.

2 (i) An eligible [~~A general academic teaching~~] institution  
3 participating in the [~~that has established a~~] work-study student  
4 mentorship program under this section may require students who are  
5 on academic probation at the institution to be matched with a  
6 student mentor employed under the program.

7 (j) [~~(d)~~] Not later than November 1 of each year, each  
8 eligible [~~general academic teaching~~] institution participating in  
9 the [~~that has established a~~] work-study student mentorship program  
10 [~~under this section~~] shall submit to the coordinating board [~~Texas~~  
11 ~~Higher Education Coordinating Board~~] a report regarding the  
12 progress resulting from [~~of~~] the institution's participation in the  
13 program. The report must include:

14 (1) the number of students of the institution employed  
15 [~~by the institution~~] as mentors under the program in the preceding  
16 academic year;

17 (2) the number of students of the institution  
18 receiving mentoring under the program in the preceding academic  
19 year;

20 (3) the number of high school students receiving  
21 mentoring or counseling from students of the institution under the  
22 program in the preceding academic year;

23 (4) [~~and~~] information relating to the costs of the  
24 program; and

25 (5) if available, information in the form prescribed  
26 by the coordinating board regarding the following indicators of  
27 [~~and~~] the academic progress of the students of the institution

1 employed as mentors under the program, students of the institution  
2 receiving mentoring under the program, and the high school students  
3 receiving mentoring or counseling from students of the institution  
4 under the program:

5 (A) changes in grade point averages;

6 (B) changes in graduation rates;

7 (C) changes in the percentage of high school  
8 students who enroll in higher education; and

9 (D) effects on higher education readiness and  
10 preparation [in that year].

11 (k) [(e)] Each eligible [general academic teaching]  
12 institution participating in the [that has established a]  
13 work-study student mentorship program under this section shall set  
14 aside a portion of the institution's Texas college work-study  
15 program funds to pay for the state's contribution toward the costs  
16 of the program.

17 (l) [(f)] Notwithstanding Section 56.076, a participating  
18 entity [a general academic teaching institution] that employs a  
19 student mentor under the work-study student mentorship program  
20 shall provide from sources other than federal college work-study  
21 funds:

22 (1) not less than 10 percent of the employed student's  
23 wages; and

24 (2) 100 percent of other employee benefits for the  
25 employed student.

26 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
27 shall adopt rules relating to the administration of the work-study

1 student mentorship program under Section 56.079, Education Code, as  
2 amended by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date  
3 of this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.