

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 work-study student  
2 mentorship program under which students who are enrolled in their  
3 junior or senior years at participating eligible institutions and  
4 who meet the eligibility requirements for employment in the Texas  
5 college work-study program under Section 56.075 may be employed by  
6 participating entities under the Texas college work-study program  
7 to:

8 (1) mentor students on academic probation at  
9 participating eligible institutions or high school students in  
10 participating school districts; or

11 (2) counsel high school students at GO Centers or  
12 similar high school-based recruiting centers designed to improve  
13 student access to higher education.

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

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

27 (e) The coordinating board:

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

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

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

14           (f) The coordinating board shall partner with participating  
15 nonprofit organizations to establish additional GO Centers or  
16 similar high school-based recruiting centers designed to improve  
17 student access to higher education in this state [~~A general  
18 academic teaching institution may establish a work-study student  
19 mentorship program under which students who are enrolled in their  
20 junior or senior year at the institution and who meet the  
21 eligibility requirements for employment in the Texas college  
22 work-study program under Section 56.075 may be employed by the  
23 institution under the Texas college work-study program to mentor  
24 students who are on academic probation at the institution].~~

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

27           (1) receives appropriate training and supervision;

1 and

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

4 (h) The coordinating board may accept gifts, grants, and  
5 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this  
6 section.

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

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

19 (1) the number of students of the institution employed  
20 [~~by the institution~~] as mentors under the program in the preceding  
21 academic year;

22 (2) the number of students of the institution  
23 receiving mentoring under the program in the preceding academic  
24 year;

25 (3) the number of high school students receiving  
26 mentoring or counseling from students of the institution under the  
27 program in the preceding academic year;

1           (4) [~~and~~] information relating to the costs of the  
2 program; and

3           (5) information in the form prescribed by the  
4 coordinating board regarding the following indicators of [~~and~~] the  
5 academic progress of the students of the institution employed as  
6 mentors under the program, students of the institution receiving  
7 mentoring under the program, and the high school students receiving  
8 mentoring or counseling from students of the institution under the  
9 program:

10                   (A) changes in grade point averages;

11                   (B) changes in graduation rates;

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

14                   (D) effects on higher education readiness and  
15 preparation [~~in that year~~].

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

22           (l) [~~(f)~~] Notwithstanding Section 56.076, a participating  
23 entity [~~a general academic teaching institution~~] that employs a  
24 student mentor under the work-study student mentorship program  
25 shall provide from sources other than federal college work-study  
26 funds:

27                   (1) not less than 10 percent of the employed student's

1 wages; and

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

4 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
5 shall adopt rules relating to the administration of the work-study  
6 student mentorship program under Section 56.079, Education Code, as  
7 amended by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date  
8 of this Act.

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