

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1051

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to course requirements for students enrolled in joint
3 degree programs between certain general academic teaching
4 institutions and foreign universities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 51.301, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read
8 as follows:

9 (a) Every college and university receiving state support or
10 state aid from public funds shall give a course of instruction in
11 government or political science which includes consideration of the
12 Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the
13 states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. This course shall
14 have a credit value of not less than six semester hours or its
15 equivalent. Except as provided by Subsection (c), a ~~[No]~~ college or
16 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds
17 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic
18 certificate to any person unless the person ~~[he]~~ has credit for such
19 a course. The college or university may determine that a student
20 has satisfied this requirement in whole or in part on the basis of
21 credit granted to the student ~~[him]~~ by the college or university for
22 a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited
23 college or university or on the basis of the student's successful
24 completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the

1 conditions and under the circumstances common for the college or
2 university's advanced standing examinations. The college or
3 university may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or
4 its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for
5 substantially equivalent work completed by the student in the
6 program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

7 (c) The governing board of a general academic teaching
8 institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under
9 a contract with a foreign college or university may exempt a student
10 enrolled in the joint degree program from the course requirement
11 prescribed by Subsection (a) if the student enrolled in the foreign
12 college or university before enrolling in the joint degree program
13 or is otherwise considered to be primarily a student of the foreign
14 college or university.

15 (d) In this section, "general academic teaching
16 institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

17 SECTION 2. Section 51.302, Education Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 51.302. AMERICAN OR TEXAS HISTORY. (a) In this
20 section, "general academic teaching institution" has the meaning
21 assigned by Section 61.003.

22 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a [No] college or
23 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds
24 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic
25 certificate to any person unless the person [he] has credit for six
26 semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A student is
27 entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of credit or its

1 equivalent in Texas History in partial satisfaction of this
2 requirement. The college or university may determine that a
3 student has satisfied this requirement in whole or part on the basis
4 of credit granted to the student [~~him~~] by the college or university
5 for a substantially equivalent course completed at another
6 accredited college or university, or on the basis of the student's
7 successful completion of an advanced standing examination
8 administered on the conditions and under the circumstances common
9 for the college or university's advanced standing examinations.
10 The college or university may grant as much as three semester hours
11 of credit or its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement
12 for substantially equivalent work completed by a student in the
13 program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

14 (c) The governing board of a general academic teaching
15 institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under
16 a contract with a foreign college or university may exempt a student
17 enrolled in the joint degree program from the course requirement
18 prescribed by Subsection (a) if the student enrolled in the foreign
19 college or university before enrolling in the joint degree program
20 or is otherwise considered to be primarily a student of the foreign
21 college or university.

22 SECTION 3. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by
23 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

24 (e) The governing board of a general academic teaching
25 institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under
26 a contract with a foreign college or university may, in
27 consultation with the foreign college or university, identify and

1 approve courses offered by the foreign college or university that
2 are equivalent to, and may substitute for, courses in the core
3 curriculum of a student enrolled in the joint degree program who is
4 considered to be primarily a student of the general academic
5 teaching institution.

6 SECTION 4. The governing board of an institution of higher
7 education to which Section 61.822(e), Education Code, as added by
8 this Act, applies may permit a student enrolled in a joint degree
9 program to which that section applies to substitute another course
10 for a course in the core curriculum as permitted by that section
11 regardless of whether the student completed the course before the
12 effective date of this Act.

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