

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1051
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 1, 2007; March 14, 2007, read
1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 25, 2007, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute from Committee on Education by the following vote:
1-6 Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 25, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1051 By: Zaffirini

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to course requirements for students enrolled in joint
1-11 degree programs between certain general academic teaching
1-12 institutions and foreign universities.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Section 51.301, Education Code, is amended by
1-15 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to
1-16 read as follows:

1-17 (a) Every college and university receiving state support or
1-18 state aid from public funds shall give a course of instruction in
1-19 government or political science which includes consideration of the
1-20 Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the
1-21 states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. This course shall
1-22 have a credit value of not less than six semester hours or its
1-23 equivalent. Except as provided by Subsection (c), a [No] college or
1-24 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds
1-25 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic
1-26 certificate to any person unless the person [he] has credit for such
1-27 a course. The college or university may determine that a student
1-28 has satisfied this requirement in whole or in part on the basis of
1-29 credit granted to the student [him] by the college or university for
1-30 a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited
1-31 college or university or on the basis of the student's successful
1-32 completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the
1-33 conditions and under the circumstances common for the college or
1-34 university's advanced standing examinations. The college or
1-35 university may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or
1-36 its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for
1-37 substantially equivalent work completed by the student in the
1-38 program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

1-39 (c) The governing board of a general academic teaching
1-40 institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under
1-41 a contract with a foreign college or university may exempt a student
1-42 enrolled in the joint degree program from the course requirement
1-43 prescribed by Subsection (a) if the student:

1-44 (1) enrolled in the foreign college or university
1-45 before enrolling in the joint degree program or is otherwise
1-46 considered to be primarily a student of the foreign college or
1-47 university; and

1-48 (2) successfully completes the American Way course
1-49 described by Subsection (d) at the institution the student attends
1-50 or, with the approval of that institution, at another general
1-51 academic teaching institution that offers the course.

1-52 (d) The American Way course authorized by Subsection (c)(2)
1-53 must be designed to provide a foreign student with a familiarity and
1-54 understanding of United States government and civic life and their
1-55 sources, development, and character. The course must concentrate
1-56 on important texts, including the United States Constitution and
1-57 the Declaration of Independence, on the works and contributions of
1-58 influential authors, political and cultural leaders, and other
1-59 important figures, and on important events and developments in
1-60 United States history. The course must cover important
1-61 developments in human and civil rights, including the civil rights
1-62 movement and the history of women's rights. The course must cover
1-63 the history and development of the State of Texas and its place in
1-64 United States history and culture. The course must consist of four

2-1 semester credit hours, with one semester credit hour in practicum
2-2 activities intended to provide the student with experience in the
2-3 three branches of government through participation at the federal,
2-4 state, or local level. The course may not be taken for course
2-5 credit by a student other than a student described by Subsection
2-6 (c).

2-7 (e) In this section, "general academic teaching
2-8 institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

2-9 SECTION 2. Section 51.302, Education Code, is amended to
2-10 read as follows:

2-11 Sec. 51.302. AMERICAN OR TEXAS HISTORY. (a) In this
2-12 section, "general academic teaching institution" has the meaning
2-13 assigned by Section 61.003.

2-14 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a [No] college or
2-15 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds
2-16 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic
2-17 certificate to any person unless the person [he] has credit for six
2-18 semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A student is
2-19 entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of credit or its
2-20 equivalent in Texas History in partial satisfaction of this
2-21 requirement. The college or university may determine that a
2-22 student has satisfied this requirement in whole or part on the basis
2-23 of credit granted to the student [him] by the college or university
2-24 for a substantially equivalent course completed at another
2-25 accredited college or university, or on the basis of the student's
2-26 successful completion of an advanced standing examination
2-27 administered on the conditions and under the circumstances common
2-28 for the college or university's advanced standing examinations.
2-29 The college or university may grant as much as three semester hours
2-30 of credit or its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement
2-31 for substantially equivalent work completed by a student in the
2-32 program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

2-33 (c) The governing board of a general academic teaching
2-34 institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under
2-35 a contract with a foreign college or university may exempt a student
2-36 enrolled in the joint degree program from the course requirement
2-37 prescribed by Subsection (b) if the student:

2-38 (1) enrolled in the foreign college or university
2-39 before enrolling in the joint degree program or is otherwise
2-40 considered to be primarily a student of the foreign college or
2-41 university; and

2-42 (2) successfully completes the American Way course
2-43 described by Section 51.301(d) at the institution the student
2-44 attends or, with the approval of that institution, at another
2-45 general academic teaching institution that offers the course.

2-46 SECTION 3. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by
2-47 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

2-48 (e) The governing board of a general academic teaching
2-49 institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under
2-50 a contract with a foreign college or university may, in
2-51 consultation with the foreign college or university, identify and
2-52 approve courses offered by the foreign college or university that
2-53 are equivalent to, and may substitute for, courses in the core
2-54 curriculum of a student enrolled in the joint degree program who is
2-55 considered to be primarily a student of the general academic
2-56 teaching institution.

2-57 SECTION 4. The governing board of an institution of higher
2-58 education to which Subsection (e), Section 61.822, Education Code,
2-59 as added by this Act, applies may permit a student enrolled in a
2-60 joint degree program to which that section applies to substitute
2-61 another course for a course in the core curriculum as permitted by
2-62 that section regardless of whether the student completed the course
2-63 before the effective date of this Act.

2-64 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-65 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-66 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-67 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-68 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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