

By: Brown of Brazos

H.B. No. 100

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to curriculum requirements in political science and American history at institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.301(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Every college and university receiving state support or state aid from public funds shall give a course of instruction in government or political science which includes consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. This course shall have a credit value of not less than three [~~six~~] semester hours or its equivalent. Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or university receiving state support or state aid from public funds may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic certificate to any person unless the person has credit for such a course. The college or university may determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or in part on the basis of credit granted to the student by the college or university for a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited college or university or on the basis of the student's successful completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the conditions and under the circumstances common for the college or university's advanced standing examinations. The college or

1 university may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or
2 its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for
3 substantially equivalent work completed by the student in the
4 program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

5 SECTION 2. Section 51.302(b), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or
8 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds
9 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic
10 certificate to any person unless the person has credit for three
11 ~~[six]~~ semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A
12 student is entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of
13 credit or its equivalent in Texas History toward ~~[in partial]~~
14 satisfaction of this requirement. The college or university may
15 determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or
16 part on the basis of credit granted to the student by the college or
17 university for a substantially equivalent course completed at
18 another accredited college or university, or on the basis of the
19 student's successful completion of an advanced standing
20 examination administered on the conditions and under the
21 circumstances common for the college or university's advanced
22 standing examinations. The college or university may grant as much
23 as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward
24 satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work
25 completed by a student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C.
26 unit.

27 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections

1 51.301(a) and 51.302(b), Education Code, apply only to the
2 curriculum requirements for a degree or certificate awarded by an
3 institution of higher education on or after the effective date of
4 this Act. The curriculum requirements for a degree or certificate
5 awarded by an institution of higher education before the effective
6 date of this Act are governed by the law in effect immediately
7 before that date, and the former law is continued in effect for that
8 purpose.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.