

1-1 By: Morrison (Senate Sponsor - Averitt) H.B. No. 2425
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 13, 2009;
1-3 May 14, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-4 Education; May 23, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0;
1-6 May 23, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2425 By: Averitt

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

1-10 relating to engineering recruitment programs at public or private
1-11 institutions of higher education and to certain degree programs at
1-12 public junior colleges.

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

1-14 SECTION 1. Section 61.791(a), Education Code, is amended to
1-15 read as follows:

1-16 (a) The board shall establish and administer, using funds
1-17 appropriated for that purpose, a one-week summer program to take
1-18 place on the campus of each general academic teaching institution
1-19 or private or independent institution of higher education that
1-20 offers an engineering degree program. The summer program must be
1-21 designed for middle and high school students and to expose those
1-22 students to math, science, and engineering concepts that a student
1-23 in an engineering degree program may encounter.

1-24 SECTION 2. Sections 61.792(a) and (b), Education Code, are
1-25 amended to read as follows:

1-26 (a) The board shall establish and administer, using funds
1-27 appropriated for that purpose, scholarships for students pursuing a
1-28 degree in engineering at a general academic teaching institution or
1-29 a private or independent institution of higher education.

1-30 (b) To qualify for a scholarship under this section, a
1-31 student must:

1-32 (1) have graduated with a grade point average in the
1-33 top 20 percent of the student's high school graduating class;

1-34 (2) have graduated from high school with a grade point
1-35 average of at least 3.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent in
1-36 mathematics and science courses offered under the recommended or
1-37 advanced high school program under Section 28.025(a); and

1-38 (3) maintain an overall grade point average of at
1-39 least 3.0 on a four-point scale at the general academic teaching
1-40 institution or the private or independent institution of higher
1-41 education in which the student is enrolled.

1-42 SECTION 3. Section 130.0012, Education Code, is amended by
1-43 adding Subsection (k) to read as follows:

1-44 (k) The board shall conduct a study relating to the success
1-45 of baccalaureate degree programs offered under this section and to
1-46 the feasibility of expanding the offering of baccalaureate degrees
1-47 by public junior colleges. The study must consider the economic
1-48 viability of expanding the degree programs, the workforce needs
1-49 served by the degree programs for various areas of the state,
1-50 current and potential university course offerings, and other
1-51 methods for making baccalaureate degrees available, such as
1-52 distance education programs and multi-institutional teaching
1-53 centers. Not later than November 15, 2010, the board shall report
1-54 the results of the study to each standing committee of the
1-55 legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher education. This
1-56 subsection expires January 1, 2011.

1-57 SECTION 4. (a) Sections 61.791 and 61.792, Education Code,
1-58 as amended by this Act, apply beginning with the 2009-2010 academic
1-59 year.

1-60 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
1-61 adopt rules for the administration of Sections 61.791 and 61.792,
1-62 Education Code, as amended by this Act, as soon as practicable after
1-63 this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the coordinating board may

2-1 adopt the rules in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.
2-2 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-6 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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