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H.B. No. 2504

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring a public institution of higher education to make available to the public on the institution's Internet website certain undergraduate course information.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.974 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.974. INTERNET ACCESS TO COURSE INFORMATION. (a)

Each institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, shall make available to the public on the institution's Internet website the following information for each undergraduate classroom course offered for credit by the institution:

(1) a syllabus that:

(A) satisfies any standards adopted by the institution;

(B) provides a brief description of each major course requirement, including each major assignment and examination;

(C) lists any required or recommended reading; and

(D) provides a general description of the subject matter of each lecture or discussion;

(2) a curriculum vitae of each regular instructor that lists the instructor's:

1 (A) postsecondary education;

2 (B) teaching experience; and

3 (C) significant professional publications; and

4 (3) if available, a departmental budget report of the
5 department under which the course is offered, from the most recent
6 semester or other academic term during which the institution
7 offered the course.

8 (a-1) A curriculum vitae made available on the
9 institution's Internet website under Subsection (a) may not include
10 any personal information, including the instructor's home address
11 or home telephone number.

12 (b) The information required by Subsection (a) must be:

13 (1) accessible from the institution's Internet website
14 home page by use of not more than three links;

15 (2) searchable by keywords and phrases; and

16 (3) accessible to the public without requiring
17 registration or use of a user name, a password, or another user
18 identification.

19 (c) The institution shall make the information required by
20 Subsection (a) available not later than the seventh day after the
21 first day of classes for the semester or other academic term during
22 which the course is offered. The institution shall continue to make
23 the information available on the institution's Internet website
24 until at least the fourth anniversary of the date on which the
25 institution initially posted the information.

26 (d) The institution shall update the information required
27 by Subsection (a) as soon as practicable after the information

1 changes.

2 (e) The governing body of the institution shall designate an
3 administrator to be responsible for ensuring implementation of this
4 section. The administrator may assign duties under this section to
5 one or more administrative employees.

6 (f) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, each
7 institution of higher education shall submit a written report
8 regarding the institution's compliance with this section to the
9 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
10 representatives, and the presiding officer of each legislative
11 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
12 education.

13 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
14 rules necessary to administer this section.

15 SECTION 2. Section 51.974, Education Code, as added by this
16 Act, applies beginning with the 2010 fall semester.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.