

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 667

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to student Internet access to financial and academic
3 information maintained by public institutions of higher education
4 and to a fixed tuition rate provided by certain institutions of
5 higher education to students for satisfactory academic
6 performance.

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

8 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 51.973 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 51.973. STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AND
11 ACADEMIC INFORMATION. In accordance with guidelines adopted by the
12 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and to the extent the
13 institution is legally authorized to provide access to relevant
14 information, each institution of higher education shall provide a
15 method by which each student enrolled in the institution may
16 access, through the institution's Internet website:

17 (1) the student's current financial status, including:

18 (A) any amount of tuition or fees the student
19 owes;

20 (B) any institutional, state, federal, private,
21 or other grant, loan, or other financial aid available specifically
22 to the student through the institution's financial aid office,
23 including the applicable amounts of aid; and

24 (C) any amount of money the student owes on a

1 student financial aid loan the student received through the
2 institution's financial aid office; and

3 (2) the student's current academic status, including:

4 (A) a list of the courses in which the student is
5 currently enrolled;

6 (B) a list of the courses that the student has
7 completed at the institution or at another institution for which
8 the institution has granted or will grant the student course
9 credit, and the grade assigned for each course; and

10 (C) information concerning the required and
11 elective courses, including the number of semester credit hours,
12 that the student must complete for the student's degree plan.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 54.0105 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 54.0105. FIXED TUITION RATE FOR SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC
16 PERFORMANCE. (a) In this section:

17 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
18 Education Coordinating Board.

19 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the
20 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

21 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, in a
22 semester or other academic term, the governing board of a general
23 academic teaching institution may not charge an undergraduate
24 student tuition under Section 54.0513, or under any other law
25 granting the institution discretion to set the tuition rate, at a
26 rate that exceeds the rate the institution charged the student
27 during the first semester or other academic term the student

1 enrolled in the institution if the student:

2 (1) enrolled in the institution:

3 (A) as a first-time freshman; or

4 (B) not later than the first fall semester
5 following the student's graduation from high school;

6 (2) has been continuously enrolled at the institution
7 since initial enrollment in the institution;

8 (3) is currently and at all times while enrolled at the
9 institution has been a resident of this state for purposes of
10 Subchapter B or was otherwise entitled to pay tuition at the rate
11 provided for residents of this state;

12 (4) is enrolled for a full course load for an
13 undergraduate student, as determined by the coordinating board, in
14 a baccalaureate degree program;

15 (5) has completed at least 75 percent of the semester
16 credit hours previously attempted at the institution; and

17 (6) has earned a cumulative grade point average of at
18 least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on all coursework
19 previously attempted at the institution.

20 (c) Subsection (b) does not apply to a student enrolled in a
21 general academic teaching institution after:

22 (1) the fourth anniversary of the date the student
23 first enrolls in the institution, if on that anniversary the
24 student is enrolled in a four-year baccalaureate degree program; or

25 (2) the end of the standard completion period
26 established by the institution for the student's degree program, if
27 the student is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program of longer

1 than four years.

2 (d) Each general academic teaching institution shall notify
3 each entering undergraduate student of the eligibility
4 requirements for a fixed tuition rate under this section.

5 (e) In consultation with general academic teaching
6 institutions, the coordinating board shall adopt any rules the
7 coordinating board considers appropriate for the administration of
8 this section, including rules necessary for purposes of Subsection
9 (f).

10 (f) The coordinating board shall adopt rules requiring a
11 general academic teaching institution to provide a fixed tuition
12 rate under this section to a student who satisfies the other
13 requirements of this section but, solely as a result of a hardship
14 or other good cause shown as determined by board rule, is unable to
15 satisfy the requirements of Subsection (b)(1), (2), (4), or (5).

16 (g) This section does not apply to a student who transfers
17 from one institution of higher education to another.

18 (h) This section does not apply to a student who enters a
19 general academic teaching institution for the first time before the
20 2010 fall semester. This subsection expires January 1, 2016.

21 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than January 1, 2010, the Texas
22 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt guidelines as
23 required by Section 51.973, Education Code, as added by this Act,
24 and rules as required by Section 54.0105, Education Code, as added
25 by this Act.

26 (b) Not later than August 1, 2010, each public institution
27 of higher education shall provide a method by which the

1 institution's students may access financial and academic
2 information as required by Section 51.973, Education Code, as added
3 by this Act.

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