

By: Zaffirini, West

S.B. No. 1394

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to notification of an applicant for admission to a general
3 academic teaching institution regarding the availability of degree
4 programs in the applicant's preferred major field of study offered
5 by other institutions.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter S, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 51.7635 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 51.7635. NOTIFICATION REGARDING DEGREE PROGRAMS
10 OFFERED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN APPLICANT'S PREFERRED MAJOR FIELD.

11 (a) The board by rule shall require that each applicant for
12 admission to a general academic teaching institution who designates
13 on the applicant's ApplyTexas online admission application form or
14 other electronic application form applicable to all general
15 academic teaching institutions one or more choices or preferences
16 for the applicant's major field of study must promptly be
17 redirected by the application website to a notification regarding
18 the availability of degree programs in that field of study offered
19 by general academic teaching institutions.

20 (b) The notification required by Subsection (a) must
21 include a list of those general academic teaching institutions
22 offering comparable degree programs in the applicant's designated
23 field of study, and must provide the following information, or
24 electronic links to the following information, for each

1 institution:

2 (1) the institution's location and distance from the
3 applicant's home zip code;

4 (2) a description of the programs offered by the
5 institution in the applicant's designated major field of study;

6 (3) graduation and retention rate information for the
7 institution; and

8 (4) any other information the board considers
9 appropriate to assist the applicant in selecting among
10 institutions.

11 (c) In addition to providing the notification required by
12 Subsection (a), if a general academic teaching institution denies
13 admission to any applicant who designated one or more choices or
14 preferences for the applicant's major field of study on the
15 applicant's admission application form described by Subsection
16 (a), the institution shall include in its notice of denial a link to
17 detailed information available on the application website
18 regarding the availability of degree programs in that field of
19 study offered by other general academic teaching institutions.

20 SECTION 2. Section 51.7635, Education Code, as added by
21 this Act, applies beginning with applicants for admission to a
22 general academic teaching institution for the 2011-2012 academic
23 year.

24 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
25 shall adopt the rules required by Section 51.7635, Education Code,
26 as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after this Act takes
27 effect. For that purpose, the coordinating board may adopt the

1 initial rules in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

2 SECTION 4. This Act does not make an appropriation. A
3 provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program,
4 creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental
5 entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the
6 legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the
7 provision.

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