

By: Zaffirini, et al.

S.B. No. 1394

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1394:

By: Branch

C.S.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) Each applicant for admission to a general academic teaching
12 institution who designates on the applicant's online common
13 admission application form or other electronic application form
14 applicable to all general academic teaching institutions one or
15 more choices or preferences for the applicant's major field of
16 study must promptly be redirected by the application website to a
17 notification regarding the availability of degree programs in that
18 field of study offered by general academic teaching institutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (d) The provision and receipt of information under this
20 section does not guarantee the availability of a degree program or
21 admission to a degree program and does not constitute a waiver of
22 any applicable admissions application deadline.

23 (e) The board, in consultation with the appropriate
24 advisory committees for common application forms, shall adopt rules
25 as necessary for the administration of this section.

26 SECTION 2. Section 51.7635, Education Code, as added by
27 this Act, applies beginning with applicants for admission to a

1 general academic teaching institution for the 2011-2012 academic
2 year.

3 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
4 shall adopt the rules required by Section 51.7635, Education Code,
5 as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after this Act takes
6 effect. For that purpose, the coordinating board may adopt the
7 initial rules in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

8 SECTION 4. This Act does not make an appropriation. A
9 provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program,
10 creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental
11 entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the
12 legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the
13 provision.

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