

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1801
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2009; March 20, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 20, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 20, 2009,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1801 By: Zaffirini

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

1-10 relating to orientation programs for new students at public
1-11 institutions of higher education.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 51.978 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 51.978. ORIENTATION PROGRAM. (a) In this section,
1-16 "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by
1-17 Section 61.003.

1-18 (b) An institution of higher education shall provide an
1-19 orientation program for each student, including a student
1-20 transferring to the institution, before or during the first
1-21 semester or other academic term in which the student is enrolled at
1-22 the institution.

1-23 (c) Each institution of higher education may determine the
1-24 format and length of and attendance requirements for the
1-25 orientation program that the institution provides under this
1-26 section, except that the program must include advising regarding:

1-27 (1) the degree and professional programs offered by
1-28 the institution;

1-29 (2) the student's postgraduation goals, including
1-30 career planning and graduate school; and

1-31 (3) transferring to a four-year institution, if the
1-32 institution offers only lower-division courses.

1-33 (d) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
1-34 provide online resources to assist an institution of higher
1-35 education in the development and implementation of an orientation
1-36 program. The resources must focus on programs that have proven
1-37 successful in improving the retention of students at institutions
1-38 of higher education.

1-39 SECTION 2. Section 51.978, Education Code, as added by this
1-40 Act, applies beginning with students admitted to an institution of
1-41 higher education for the 2010 fall semester.

1-42 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-43 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-44 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-45 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-46 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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