

By: Shelton

H.B. No. 136

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to restrictions on dropping courses at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 51.907(b), (d), and (e), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) A policy adopted under this ~~[This]~~ section applies only to an undergraduate student who drops a course at an institution of higher education and who ~~[only if]~~:

(1) ~~[the student]~~ was able to drop the course without receiving a grade or incurring an academic penalty;

(2) has an official ~~[the student's]~~ transcript that indicates or will indicate that the student was enrolled in the course; and

(3) ~~[the student]~~ is not dropping the course in order to withdraw from the institution.

(d) The governing board of an institution of higher education may adopt a policy that limits ~~[under which]~~ the ~~[maximum]~~ number of courses a student is permitted to drop under circumstances described by Subsection (b) ~~[is less than the maximum number of courses that a student may drop under Subsection (c)]~~.

(e) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules under which an institution of higher education that adopts a policy under Subsection (d) shall permit a student to drop

1 more courses under circumstances described by Subsection (b) than
2 the number of courses permitted to be dropped [~~under Subsection (c)~~
3 ~~or~~] under the [~~a~~] policy adopted under Subsection (d) if the student
4 shows good cause for dropping more than that number, including a
5 showing of:

6 (1) a severe illness or other debilitating condition
7 that affects the student's ability to satisfactorily complete a
8 course;

9 (2) the student's responsibility for the care of a
10 sick, injured, or needy person if the provision of care affects the
11 student's ability to satisfactorily complete a course;

12 (3) the death of a person who:

13 (A) is considered to be a member of the student's
14 family under a rule adopted under this subsection for purposes of
15 this subdivision; or

16 (B) is otherwise considered to have a
17 sufficiently close relationship to the student under a rule adopted
18 under this subsection that the person's death is considered to be a
19 showing of good cause; or

20 (4) the active duty service as a member of the Texas
21 National Guard or the armed forces of the United States of:

22 (A) the student; or

23 (B) a person who is considered to be a member of
24 the student's family under a rule adopted under this subsection for
25 purposes of this subdivision.

26 SECTION 2. Section 51.907(c), Education Code, is repealed.

27 SECTION 3. (a) Until the Texas Higher Education

1 Coordinating Board adopts the rules required by Section 51.907(e),
2 Education Code, as amended by this Act, the rules adopted under
3 Section 51.907 in effect on the effective date of this Act continue
4 in effect, and a student who shows good cause for dropping a course
5 as provided by those existing rules may do so notwithstanding a
6 policy adopted by an institution of higher education under Section
7 51.907 before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

8 (b) This section expires May 1, 2012.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.