

By: Castro

H.B. No. 992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to excess undergraduate credit hours at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.907, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

(a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution," "governing board," ~~and~~ "institution of higher education," and "public junior college" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(c) Except as provided under rules adopted under Subsection (d) or by Subsection (g), an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, under circumstances described by Subsection (b).

(g) In determining the number of courses dropped by a student for purposes of this section, a general academic teaching institution may not count a course dropped by a student enrolled in the institution if:

(1) the student dropped the course while enrolled in a public junior college; and

(2) the student transferred to the general academic teaching institution after earning from another institution of

1 higher education:

2 (A) at least 30 semester credit hours; or

3 (B) an associate degree.

4 (h) An institution of higher education shall provide
5 written notice to each undergraduate student of the provisions of
6 this section before the end of the first semester in which the
7 student is enrolled in the institution.

8 SECTION 2. Section 61.0595(d), Education Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (d) The following are not counted for purposes of
11 determining whether the student has previously earned the number of
12 semester credit hours specified by Subsection (a):

13 (1) semester credit hours earned by the student before
14 receiving an associate or [a] baccalaureate degree that has
15 previously been awarded to the student;

16 (2) semester credit hours earned by the student by
17 examination or under any other procedure by which credit is earned
18 without registering for a course for which tuition is charged;

19 (3) credit for a remedial education course, a
20 technical course, a workforce education course funded according to
21 contact hours, or another course that does not count toward a degree
22 program at the institution;

23 (4) semester credit hours earned by the student at a
24 private institution or an out-of-state institution; and

25 (5) semester credit hours earned by the student before
26 graduating from high school and used to satisfy high school
27 graduation requirements.

1 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act to Section
2 61.0595, Education Code, applies beginning with the funding
3 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the
4 2013-2014 academic year.

5 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Section
6 51.907, Education Code, applies beginning with the fall 2011
7 semester.

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, 2011.