

By: Price

H.B. No. 1420

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to limitations on the number of courses that students may  
3 drop under certain circumstances at certain public institutions of  
4 higher education.

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

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

8 (a) In this section, "governing board," "general academic  
9 teaching institution," and "medical and dental unit" [~~"institution~~  
10 ~~of higher education"~~] have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

11 (b) This section applies only to an undergraduate student  
12 who drops a course at a general academic teaching institution or  
13 medical and dental unit [~~an institution of higher education~~] and  
14 only if:

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

17 (2) the student's transcript indicates or will  
18 indicate that the student was enrolled in the course; and

19 (3) the student is not dropping the course in order to  
20 withdraw from the institution.

21 (c) Except as provided under rules adopted under Subsection  
22 (d), a general academic teaching institution or medical and dental  
23 unit [~~an institution of higher education~~] may not permit a student  
24 to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer

1 student has dropped at another general academic teaching  
2 institution or medical and dental unit [~~of higher education~~], under  
3 circumstances described by Subsection (b).

4 (d) The governing board of a general academic teaching  
5 institution or medical and dental unit [~~an institution of higher~~  
6 ~~education~~] may adopt a policy under which the maximum number of  
7 courses a student is permitted to drop under circumstances  
8 described by Subsection (b) is less than the maximum number of  
9 courses that a student may drop under Subsection (c).

10 (e) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
11 adopt rules under which a general academic teaching institution or  
12 medical and dental unit [~~an institution of higher education~~] shall  
13 permit a student to drop more courses under circumstances described  
14 by Subsection (b) than the number of courses permitted to be dropped  
15 under Subsection (c) or under a policy adopted under Subsection (d)  
16 if the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number,  
17 including a showing of:

18 (1) a severe illness or other debilitating condition  
19 that affects the student's ability to satisfactorily complete a  
20 course;

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

24 (3) the death of a person who:

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

1                   (B) is otherwise considered to have a  
2 sufficiently close relationship to the student under a rule adopted  
3 under this subsection that the person's death is considered to be a  
4 showing of good cause; or

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

7                   (A) the student; or

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

11           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies  
12 beginning with the fall 2011 semester.

13           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.