

By: Branch

H.B. No. 2909

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to increasing awareness in this state of the importance of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 29.911, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 29.911. GENERATION TEXAS [~~"EDUCATION: GO GET IT"~~] WEEK.

SECTION 2. Sections 29.911(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To educate middle school, junior high school, and high school students about the importance of higher education, each school district and each open-enrollment charter school offering any of those grade levels shall designate one week during the school year as Generation Texas [~~"Education: Go Get It"~~] Week.

(b) During the designated week, each middle school, junior high school, and high school shall provide students with comprehensive grade-appropriate information regarding the pursuit of higher education. The information provided must include information regarding:

(1) higher education options available to students;
(2) standard admission requirements for institutions of higher education, including:

(A) overall high school grade point average;

1 (B) required curriculum; [~~and~~]

2 (C) college readiness standards and expectations
3 as determined under Section 28.008; and

4 (D) scores necessary on generally recognized
5 tests or assessment instruments used in admissions determinations,
6 including the Scholastic Assessment Test and the American College
7 Test;

8 (3) automatic admission of certain students to general
9 academic teaching institutions as provided by Section 51.803; and

10 (4) financial aid availability and requirements,
11 including the financial aid information provided by counselors
12 under Section 33.007(b).

13 SECTION 3. Section 61.9701(b), Education Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (b) The campaign must [~~may~~] include the provision of
16 information on:

17 (1) the benefits of obtaining a postsecondary
18 education;

19 (2) the types of institutions of higher education and
20 degree programs available;

21 (3) the academic preparation needed to successfully
22 pursue a postsecondary education as determined under Section 28.008
23 and any other requirements for enrollment at an institution of
24 higher education; and

25 (4) how to obtain financial aid and what forms of
26 financial aid are available.

27 SECTION 4. Section 61.9703, Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 61.9703. COORDINATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES [~~AGENCIES~~].
3 The board shall [~~may~~] coordinate with the Texas Education Agency,
4 the P-16 Council established under Section 61.076, and other
5 appropriate entities, including regional P-16 councils and
6 businesses, to [~~agencies as necessary to develop and~~] implement the
7 public awareness campaign.

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.