

By: Branch

H.B. No. 2910

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to agreements between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and certain organizations for increasing degree completion rates.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0905 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0905. AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS TO INCREASE DEGREE COMPLETION RATES. (a) The board may, in partnership with institutions of higher education, enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organization to assist the board in identifying and implementing effective methods for increasing degree completion rates at institutions of higher education, including by:

(1) identifying and promoting innovative models, emerging technology platforms, and best practices for increasing degree completion rates in areas including:

(A) developmental education;

(B) financial assistance;

(C) student support services; and

(D) transfer or articulation agreements;

(2) providing data, research, and evaluation support to assist the board in assessing the effectiveness of pilot programs in increasing degree completion rates;

(3) coordinating ongoing local, state, federal, and

1 philanthropic initiatives to increase degree completion rates; and
2 (4) determining the extent of implementation of degree
3 completion rate improvement models across a region or the state and
4 the effectiveness of the models as student population increases.

5 (b) The board by rule may establish a grant program to fund
6 projects, including the award of a grant to a nonprofit
7 organization that enters into an agreement with the board under
8 this section, related to the improvement of degree completion
9 rates. If the board establishes a grant program under this section,
10 the board by rule shall prescribe the application procedure and
11 criteria for awarding a grant.

12 (c) Grants awarded by the board under this section may be
13 funded by:

14 (1) appropriations; and

15 (2) gifts, grants, or other donations.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.