

1-1 By: Branch, Dukes (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2910
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 26, 2011;
1-3 April 29, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-4 Education; May 23, 2011, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
1-6 May 23, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2910 By: Zaffirini

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to agreements between the Texas Higher Education
1-11 Coordinating Board and certain organizations for increasing degree
1-12 completion rates.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
1-15 amended by adding Section 61.0905 to read as follows:

1-16 Sec. 61.0905. AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS TO INCREASE DEGREE
1-17 COMPLETION RATES. (a) The board may, in partnership with
1-18 institutions of higher education, enter into an agreement with
1-19 nonprofit organizations to assist the board in identifying and
1-20 implementing effective methods for increasing degree completion
1-21 rates at institutions of higher education, including by:

1-22 (1) identifying and promoting innovative models,
1-23 emerging technology platforms, and best practices for increasing
1-24 degree completion rates in areas including:

1-25 (A) developmental education;

1-26 (B) financial assistance;

1-27 (C) student support services; and

1-28 (D) transfer or articulation agreements;

1-29 (2) providing data, research, and evaluation support
1-30 to assist the board in assessing the effectiveness of pilot
1-31 programs in increasing degree completion rates;

1-32 (3) coordinating ongoing local, state, federal, and
1-33 philanthropic initiatives to increase degree completion rates; and

1-34 (4) determining the extent of implementation of degree
1-35 completion rate improvement models across a region or the state and
1-36 the effectiveness of the models as student population increases.

1-37 (b) The board by rule may establish a grant program to fund
1-38 projects, including the award of a grant to a nonprofit
1-39 organization that enters into an agreement with the board under
1-40 this section, related to the improvement of degree completion
1-41 rates. If the board establishes a grant program under this section,
1-42 the board by rule shall prescribe the application procedure and
1-43 criteria for awarding a grant.

1-44 (c) Grants awarded by the board under this section may be
1-45 funded by:

1-46 (1) appropriations; and

1-47 (2) gifts, grants, or other donations.

1-48 (d) Not later than January 1, 2012, the board shall report
1-49 to the Joint Oversight Committee on Higher Education Governance,
1-50 Excellence, and Transparency a description of:

1-51 (1) the types of nonprofit organizations eligible for
1-52 a grant under this section;

1-53 (2) grants awarded under this section; and

1-54 (3) a survey of partnerships between other states and
1-55 nonprofit organizations to increase degree completion rates,
1-56 including identification of best practices.

1-57 (e) This section expires September 1, 2013.

1-58 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-59 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-60 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-61 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-62 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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