

By: Patrick

H.B. No. 3468

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the assessment of public school students for college
3 readiness and developmental education courses to prepare students
4 for college-level coursework.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 28.0141 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 28.0141. STUDY AND REPORT ON EARLY COLLEGE READINESS
9 ASSESSMENTS. (a) The agency, in consultation with the Texas Higher
10 Education Coordinating Board, shall conduct a study of best
11 practices for and existing programs offering early assessments of
12 high school students in order to determine college readiness,
13 identify any deficiencies in college readiness, and provide
14 intervention to address any deficiencies before high school
15 graduation. In conducting the study, the agency, in consultation
16 with the coordinating board, shall review:

17 (1) various assessments, including end-of-course
18 assessment instruments under Section 39.023(c) and any assessment
19 being proposed as a statewide model by the coordinating board under
20 Section 51.3062(v), for identifying students who need additional
21 assistance in preparing for college;

22 (2) various early intervention models, including:

23 (A) summer bridge programs;

24 (B) college preparatory English and mathematics

1 courses for credit toward high school graduation;

2 (C) developmental education programs, including
3 college readiness programs under Section 39.234, and college study
4 skills courses; and

5 (D) dual credit courses;

6 (3) the costs associated with different assessments
7 and early intervention models; and

8 (4) the effectiveness of different assessments and
9 early intervention models in preparing students for freshman-level
10 college coursework.

11 (b) Not later than December 1, 2012, the agency, in
12 consultation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board,
13 shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker
14 of the house of representatives, and the presiding officer of each
15 legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
16 primary and secondary education, higher education, or state
17 appropriations a written report that contains recommendations for
18 implementing an assessment and early intervention model for
19 preparing high school students before graduation for
20 freshman-level college coursework, as indicated by performance on
21 the assessment required under Section 51.3062.

22 (c) This section expires January 1, 2013.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter H, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
24 amended by adding Section 29.2531 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 29.2531. ADULT EDUCATION ASSESSMENT. The Texas
26 Education Agency shall, in consultation with the Texas Higher
27 Education Coordinating Board, review the standardized assessment

1 mechanism required under Section 29.252(a)(7) and recommend any
2 changes necessary to align the assessment with the assessments
3 designated under Section 51.3062 to allow for the proper placement
4 of a student in an adult basic education course or to provide the
5 student with the proper developmental coursework, as appropriate.

6 SECTION 3. Section 51.3062, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (t), (u), (v), and (w) to read as follows:

8 (t) To allow a student to complete any necessary
9 developmental coursework in the most efficient and cost-effective
10 manner, the board shall encourage public junior colleges to offer
11 various types of developmental coursework that address various
12 levels of deficiency in readiness to perform freshman-level college
13 coursework as determined on the basis of assessments as described
14 by Subsection (f). Each course under this subsection must, to the
15 greatest extent practicable, be offered to provide for credit,
16 noncredit, and demonstration of proficiency options.

17 (u) The board shall use evidence-based studies and existing
18 data to study and analyze:

19 (1) assessment instruments that are currently used or
20 could be used by institutions to comply with this section,
21 including the diagnostic reliability and cost-effectiveness of
22 those assessment instruments;

23 (2) differentiated placements, for developmental
24 coursework based on a student's demonstrated proficiencies or
25 deficiencies in readiness to perform freshman-level college
26 coursework as determined on the basis of assessments as described
27 by Subsection (f), including the extent to which various types of

1 placements result in or serve efficient, cost-effective, and
2 successful developmental education;

3 (3) whether the funding formulas under Subsection (m)
4 and under Section 61.059, as applied to developmental coursework,
5 result in or serve efficient and cost-effective implementation of
6 successful developmental education; and

7 (4) whether any of the nonapplicability categories
8 under Subsection (r) should be retained.

9 (v) Not later than December 1, 2012, the board shall submit
10 a written report based on the study under Subsection (u) to the
11 governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
12 representatives, and presiding officer of each legislative
13 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education
14 or state appropriations recommending a statewide diagnostic
15 standard assessment instrument for purposes of this section that
16 allows for:

17 (1) accurate diagnosis and targeted intervention for
18 students who are identified as requiring developmental coursework;

19 (2) appropriate placement to provide the type and
20 level of developmental coursework that allow a student to receive
21 developmental education in the most efficient, cost-effective, and
22 successful manner; and

23 (3) the most effective use of formula funding with
24 regard to developmental coursework targeted to students' needs.

25 (w) Subsections (u) and (v) and this subsection expire
26 January 1, 2013.

27 SECTION 4. Section 61.059, Education Code, is amended by

1 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

2 (b-1) The board shall include in its periodic review of
3 formulas under Subsection (b) recommendations for changes in
4 funding formulas for developmental education programs based on the
5 results of the study conducted under Section 51.3062(u) and the
6 report submitted under Section 51.3062(v). This subsection expires
7 January 1, 2015.

8 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act to Section
9 61.059, Education Code, applies beginning with periodic reviews
10 submitted on or after December 1, 2012.

11 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.