

By: Shapiro
(Branch)

S.B. No. 162

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to developing a developmental education plan for students entering public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.07611 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.07611. DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN; REPORT.

(a) To serve students who require developmental education in an effective and cost-effective manner, the board shall develop a statewide plan for developmental education to be provided under Section 51.3062 that:

(1) assigns primary responsibility for developmental education to public junior colleges, public state colleges, and public technical institutes; and

(2) provides for using technology, to the greatest extent practicable consistent with best practices, to provide developmental education to students.

(b) In developing the developmental education plan, the board shall:

(1) research relevant issues related to developmental education;

(2) study and develop best practices for successful developmental education programs, including through use of pilot programs; and

1 (3) assess various methods of providing developmental
2 education to students to determine which methods, if any, should be
3 implemented on a statewide basis.

4 (c) Developmental education under the plan must include:

5 (1) technological delivery of developmental education
6 courses that allows students to complete course work;

7 (2) diagnostic assessments to determine a student's
8 specific educational needs to allow for appropriate developmental
9 instruction;

10 (3) modular developmental education course materials;

11 (4) use of tutors and instructional aides to
12 supplement developmental education course instruction as needed
13 for particular students;

14 (5) an internal monitoring mechanism to identify a
15 student's area of academic difficulty;

16 (6) periodic updates of developmental education
17 course materials; and

18 (7) assessments after completion of a developmental
19 education course to determine a student's readiness to enroll in
20 freshman-level academic courses.

21 (d) The developmental education plan must provide for:

22 (1) ongoing training for developmental education
23 program faculty members, tutors, and instructional aides at the
24 institutions or other locations where those persons provide
25 instruction; and

26 (2) ongoing research and improvement of appropriate
27 developmental education programs, including participation by a

1 group of institution of higher education faculty members selected
2 by the board, to:

3 (A) monitor results of the programs;

4 (B) identify successful and unsuccessful program
5 components; and

6 (C) identify possible solutions to program
7 problems.

8 (e) Not later than December 1, 2012, the board shall submit
9 to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
10 representatives, and presiding officer of each legislative
11 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education
12 a report concerning the initial development of the developmental
13 education plan under this section, including any recommendations
14 for redesign or reassignment among institutions of higher education
15 of existing programs or implementation of new programs and, if
16 appropriate, recommendations for legislation. This subsection
17 expires January 1, 2013.

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