

By: Patrick

S.B. No. 1396

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to measures to increase cost efficiency at public
3 institutions of higher education and the Texas Higher Education
4 Coordinating Board, including the elimination of certain reporting
5 and other requirements imposed on institutions or the coordinating
6 board.

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

8 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish:

9 (1) strategies by which public institutions of higher
10 education can:

11 (A) achieve higher levels of cost efficiency in
12 producing degrees, with special emphasis on undergraduate degrees;
13 and

14 (B) become more accountable, efficient, and
15 innovative stewards of state resources in producing better outcomes
16 for students; and

17 (2) other measures for increasing the cost efficiency
18 of public institutions of higher education or the Texas Higher
19 Education Coordinating Board.

20 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 51.305 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 51.305. COMPLETION OF COURSES THROUGH ALTERNATIVE
23 METHODS REQUIRED. (a) At least 10 percent of the cumulative total
24 number of semester credit hours successfully completed by a student

1 of an institution of higher education at any institution during the
2 student's undergraduate academic career must be taken through
3 methods other than an on-campus lecture course or seminar taken
4 during peak hours during a fall or spring semester, including by the
5 following alternative methods:

6 (1) courses or seminars offered during off-peak hours
7 or during a term or session other than a spring or fall semester;

8 (2) dual credit courses;

9 (3) online courses;

10 (4) internships for course credit; or

11 (5) course credits awarded for student demonstration
12 of specific competencies as determined by the institution.

13 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
14 rules as necessary for the administration of this section.

15 SECTION 3. Section 51.3062(n), Education Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (n) Each institution of higher education, other than a
18 medical and dental unit, shall report annually to the board on the
19 success of its students and the effectiveness of its Success
20 Initiative.

21 SECTION 4. Subchapter G, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
22 amended by adding Section 51.359 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 51.359. CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION WORKLOAD FOR FACULTY
24 MEMBERS. (a) In this section:

25 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
26 Education Coordinating Board.

27 (2) "Faculty member" means a person who is employed by

1 an institution of higher education as a member of the faculty whose
2 primary duties include teaching, research, academic service, or
3 administration, except that the term does not include a person
4 holding faculty rank who spends a majority of the person's time for
5 the institution engaged in managerial or supervisory activities,
6 including a chancellor, vice chancellor, president, vice
7 president, provost, associate or assistant provost, or dean.

8 (b) For purposes of this section:

9 (1) the average faculty member classroom instruction
10 workload of an institution of higher education for an academic year
11 is computed by dividing the total number of semester credit hours
12 taken by all students of the institution during that academic year
13 by the total number of full-time or full-time equivalent faculty
14 members at the institution for that academic year; and

15 (2) the average faculty member classroom instruction
16 workload of an institutional grouping for an academic year is
17 computed by dividing the sum of the average faculty member
18 classroom instruction workloads of all institutions of higher
19 education assigned to the institutional grouping under the
20 coordinating board's accountability system for that academic year
21 by the number of institutions assigned to that institutional
22 grouping.

23 (c) Notwithstanding Section 51.402, the governing board of
24 each institution of higher education shall ensure that for the
25 2013-2014 and each subsequent academic year, the average faculty
26 member classroom instruction workload of the institution is at
27 least 10 percent greater than the average faculty member classroom

1 instruction workload of the institutional grouping to which the
2 institution is assigned under the coordinating board's
3 accountability system for the 2010-2011 academic year.

4 (d) Not later than January 15 of each year, the coordinating
5 board shall submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
6 house of representatives, the presiding officer of each legislative
7 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
8 education, and each governing board of an institution of higher
9 education a written report detailing the percentage by which the
10 average faculty member classroom instruction workload of each
11 institution of higher education has changed compared to the
12 2010-2011 academic year.

13 (e) The coordinating board shall adopt rules for the
14 administration of this section.

15 (f) This section does not apply to an academic year after
16 the 2014-2015 academic year. This section expires January 1, 2016.

17 SECTION 5. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
18 amended by adding Section 51.9685 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 51.9685. REQUIRED FILING OF DEGREE PLAN. (a) In this
20 section:

21 (1) "Degree plan" means a statement of the course of
22 study requirements that an undergraduate student at an institution
23 of higher education must complete in order to be awarded an
24 associate's or bachelor's degree from the institution, established
25 through collaboration between the student and an academic advisor
26 for the student's degree program and approved by the academic
27 advisor.

1 (2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
2 assigned by Section 61.003.

3 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each
4 student enrolled in an associate's or bachelor's degree program at
5 an institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the
6 institution not later than the semester or term immediately
7 following the semester or term in which the student earned a
8 cumulative total of 30 or more semester credit hours for course work
9 successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses,
10 international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any
11 other course for which the institution the student attends has
12 awarded the student college course credit, including by
13 examination.

14 (c) A student to whom this section applies who begins the
15 student's first semester or term at an institution of higher
16 education with 30 or more semester credit hours of course credit for
17 courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a degree plan with
18 the institution during the student's first semester at the
19 institution.

20 (d) A student to whom this section applies may not register
21 for any course offered by the institution of higher education for a
22 semester or term succeeding the semester or term in which the
23 student is required to file a degree plan under this section unless
24 the student has filed a degree plan with the institution.

25 (e) After filing a degree plan with an institution of higher
26 education as required by this section, a student to whom this
27 section applies may not change the student's degree plan or enroll

1 in a course that is not included in the student's degree plan unless
2 the student has consulted with the student's academic advisor and
3 satisfied any applicable prerequisite or other requirement imposed
4 by the institution regarding that degree plan change or course
5 enrollment, as applicable.

6 (f) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
7 rules as necessary for the administration of this section.

8 SECTION 6. Section 61.086(b), Education Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (b) Each institution of higher education shall implement
11 the uniform strategy developed under Subsection (a). [~~Each~~
12 ~~institution shall report to the board as part of the annual report~~
13 ~~submitted under Section 51.4032 the manner in which the institution~~
14 ~~has implemented the uniform strategy.~~]

15 SECTION 7. The following laws are repealed:

- 16 (1) Section 61.9685, Education Code;
- 17 (2) Section 2056.011, Government Code; and
- 18 (3) Section 303.004, Labor Code.

19 SECTION 8. Section 51.305, Education Code, as added by this
20 Act, applies only to undergraduate students at public institutions
21 of higher education who, at the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic
22 year, have accrued a cumulative total of fewer than 60 semester
23 credit hours for course work successfully completed by the student
24 at any institution.

25 SECTION 9. Section 51.9685, Education Code, as added by
26 this Act, applies beginning with undergraduate students who
27 initially enroll in an institution of higher education for the 2011

1 fall semester.

2 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect immediately if it
3 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
4 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
5 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
6 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.