

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1472

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the coordinated dissemination of online information
3 regarding the operation and performance of certain for-profit
4 educational entities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 61.0778 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0778. ONLINE INFORMATION REGARDING CERTAIN
9 FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES. (a) In this section,
10 "commission" means the Texas Workforce Commission.

11 (b) The board and commission jointly shall develop a
12 comprehensive strategy to improve and coordinate the dissemination
13 of online information regarding the operation and performance of
14 for-profit private postsecondary educational institutions and
15 for-profit career schools or colleges in this state. As part of the
16 comprehensive strategy, the board and the commission shall compile,
17 share, and compare existing data and other applicable information
18 under the control of each agency and shall organize that
19 information as nearly as possible according to the categories of
20 information required for the online resumes of lower-division
21 public institutions under Section 51A.103.

22 (c) For each for-profit private postsecondary educational
23 institution or for-profit career school or college that the board
24 or commission identifies as doing business in this state, the board

1 and commission shall each publish on the agency's Internet website
2 any information described by Subsection (b) that the board and
3 commission jointly determine would assist a person in deciding
4 whether to enroll in the institution, school, or college or in
5 identifying or choosing which institution, school, or college to
6 attend. The websites must:

7 (1) present information regarding those institutions,
8 schools, and colleges in a manner that is:

9 (A) to the extent practicable, consistent among
10 the institutions, schools, and colleges; and

11 (B) easily accessible and readily understandable
12 to the public; and

13 (2) allow for interactive online reporting of
14 complaints from the public about a specific institution, school, or
15 college.

16 (d) The board and commission shall each refer any complaint
17 the agency receives under Subsection (c)(2) regarding the operation
18 and performance of a for-profit private postsecondary educational
19 institution or for-profit career school or college to the consumer
20 protection division of the attorney general's office for timely
21 investigation and resolution of the complaint.

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