

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1726

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of measurable learning outcomes for undergraduate courses at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.96851 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.96851. LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) To foster a transparent student learning environment at institutions of higher education and to facilitate the universal articulation of undergraduate courses that are transferable for credit among all institutions of higher education, each institution of higher education shall identify, adopt, and make available for public inspection measurable learning outcomes for each undergraduate course offered by the institution other than:

(1) a course with a highly variable subject content that is tailored specifically to an individual student, such as an independent study or directed reading course; or

(2) a laboratory, practicum, or discussion section that is an intrinsic and required component of a lecture course.

(c) An institution of higher education may adopt learning outcomes for a course under this section that are the same as or based on those identified for that course by the institution's

1 recognized accrediting agency.

2 (d) In consultation with institutions of higher education,
3 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt any rules
4 the coordinating board considers appropriate for the
5 administration of this section.

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