

By: Zaffirini
(Johnson)

S.B. No. 1730

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
3 to create a tool to allow prospective students to compare general
4 academic teaching institutions by certain criteria.

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 61.09021 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.09021. COMPARISON TOOL. (a) The board shall make
9 available to the public on the board's Internet website a search
10 tool that allows a person to compare general academic teaching
11 institutions that meet certain criteria selected by the person,
12 including offering a particular major or program of study.

13 (b) The comparison tool required under this section must:

14 (1) be accessible from the board's Internet website;

15 (2) allow a user to identify general academic teaching
16 institutions according to selection criteria as determined by the
17 board; and

18 (3) be accessible to the public without requiring
19 registration or use of a user name, password, or other user
20 identification.

21 (c) The comparison tool required under this section must
22 generate a comparison chart in a grid format that:

23 (1) lists the general academic teaching institutions
24 that match a user's search criteria; and

1 (2) provides information for each institution listed
2 that the board has determined would aid a prospective student in
3 evaluating the institution.

4 (d) The Internet page displaying the comparison chart must
5 include a link to the Internet website of the Texas Workforce
6 Commission.

7 (e) To the extent practicable, the information provided
8 under Subsection (c) must consist of information that a general
9 academic teaching institution is required to report to the board
10 under another provision of law, including board rule.

11 (f) Each general academic teaching institution shall
12 provide to the board the information to be provided under
13 Subsection (c) not later than October 1, or a date determined by the
14 board, of each year. The board shall update the comparison tool as
15 soon as practicable after receiving information from each
16 institution.

17 SECTION 2. Not later than February 1, 2013, the Texas Higher
18 Education Coordinating Board shall create and post on the board's
19 Internet website the comparison tool required by Section 61.09021,
20 Education Code, as added by this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.