

By: Zaffirini

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
4 institutions of higher education 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 institutions of higher
11 education 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 home page by use of not more than three links;

16 (2) allow a user to identify institutions according
17 to:

18 (A) major field or program of study;

19 (B) high school class rank; and

20 (C) a score on a generally recognized test or
21 assessment used in college and university undergraduate
22 admissions, including the Scholastic Assessment Test and the
23 American College Test; and

24 (3) be accessible to the public without requiring

1 registration or use of a user name, password, or other user
2 identification.

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

5 (1) lists the institutions of higher education that
6 match a user's search criteria; and

7 (2) provides the following information for each
8 institution listed:

9 (A) the average annual cost of tuition and fees
10 for an undergraduate student enrolled for 12 semester credit hours
11 per semester;

12 (B) the percentage of applicants with similar
13 high school class rank accepted in the freshman class for the most
14 recent academic year for which the information is available;

15 (C) the percentage of applicants with similar
16 scores on a generally recognized test or assessment used in
17 undergraduate admissions accepted in the freshman class for the
18 most recent academic year for which the information is available;

19 (D) the four-year and six-year graduation rates
20 of full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students with a similar
21 high school class rank and score on a generally recognized test or
22 assessment used in undergraduate admissions for:

23 (i) the institution as a whole; and

24 (ii) the major or program selected for
25 comparison;

26 (E) the average starting salary in the state for
27 graduates of the major or program selected for comparison; and

1 (F) a link to the institution's online resume.

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

5 (e) Each institution of higher education shall provide to
6 the board the data required under Subsection (c) not later than
7 October 1 of each year. The board shall update the comparison tool
8 as soon as practicable after receiving data from each institution.

9 SECTION 2. (a) Each institution of higher education shall
10 provide the categories of data to be included in the comparison
11 search tool required by Section 61.09021, Education Code, as added
12 by this Act, to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
13 beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year.

14 (b) Not later than September 1, 2012, the Texas Higher
15 Education Coordinating Board shall create and post on the board's
16 Internet website the comparison tool required by Section 61.09021,
17 Education Code, as added by this Act.

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