

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 25, 2011

TO: Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1244 by Castro (Relating to developmental education courses and the assessment of student readiness under the Texas Success Initiative for public institutions of higher education.), **As Passed 2nd House**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to prescribe a single standard or set of standards for each assessment instrument designated by the agency to effectively measure student readiness as demonstrated by current research. The bill would prohibit an institution of higher education from adopting more stringent standards, to assess a student's readiness to perform freshman-level academic coursework, than those adopted by the THECB. The bill would also require institutions to offer a student, required to enroll in developmental education coursework, a range of developmental coursework or instructional support that includes the integration of technology to efficiently address the particular developmental needs of the student.

The bill would require institutions to base developmental education coursework on research-based best practices that include the following components: 1) assessment; 2) differentiated placement and instruction; 3) faculty development; 4) support services; 5) program evaluation, including effectiveness and cost-efficiency; 6) integration of technology; 7) non-course-based developmental education; and 8) course pairing with credit-bearing courses. The THECB, in consultation with institutions, would also be required to provide professional development programs, including instruction in differentiated instruction methods designed to address student's diverse learning needs, for developmental education faculty and staff. This bill also repeals Section 51.3062(e) of the Education Code which allows the THECB to use additional assessment instruments to measure college readiness.

The bill would require institutions to determine when a student is ready to perform freshman-level coursework using learning outcomes developed by the THECB. The bill would also allow institutions to exempt from the payment of tuition and fees a student who is participating in an approved non-semester-length developmental education intervention.

The agencies estimate there would be a minimal cost associated with implementing the provisions of this bill. This analysis assumes that agencies could absorb these costs within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 758 Texas State University System, 783 University of Houston System Administration, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System Administration

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