

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 20, 2011

TO: Honorable Judith Zaffirini, Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education

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.), **Committee Report 2nd House, As Amended**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

This bill requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to prescribe a single standard or set of standards to effectively measure student readiness. 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.

This 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. 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 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.

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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