

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 22

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a public service requirement for
3 undergraduate students, known as Service to Texas, at public
4 institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 51.310 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.310. SERVICE TO TEXAS. (a) In this section,
9 "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by
10 Section 61.003.

11 (b) To receive a baccalaureate degree or a certificate for
12 an undergraduate program requiring at least 60 semester credit
13 hours from an institution of higher education, a student must
14 perform at least 20 hours of unpaid public service while enrolled in
15 an institution of higher education in this state. The public
16 service required under this section is known as Service to Texas.

17 (c) Service to Texas must consist of activity for and under
18 the supervision of a nonprofit organization, governmental entity,
19 or other entity that benefits needy or deserving individuals or the
20 public, as determined by the institution the student attends.

21 (d) Each institution of higher education shall assign an
22 existing office to coordinate and monitor a Service to Texas
23 program to assist students to satisfy the public service
24 requirements of this section.

1 (e) Each institution of higher education, through its
2 Service to Texas program, shall develop a list of approved public
3 service organizations and entities for purposes of Subsection (c).
4 In developing and maintaining the list, an institution of higher
5 education shall:

6 (1) include on the list a broad variety of
7 organizations and entities that reflect diverse activities and
8 viewpoints; and

9 (2) permit a student to propose a specific
10 organization or entity for consideration for addition to the list.

11 (f) A student shall select one or more of the organizations
12 or entities listed as provided by Subsection (e) to supervise and
13 document the student's performance of the required public service.

14 (g) This section does not apply to a student who first
15 enrolls in an institution of higher education before September 1,
16 2014.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.