

By: Gonzales

H.B. No. 1004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an electronic system adopted and maintained by public  
3 institutions of higher education to employ a person to track the  
4 academic progress of military veterans or their family members  
5 receiving student financial assistance.

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

7 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 56.006, Education Code,  
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 56.006. FACILITATING [~~EMPLOYEE TRAINED IN STUDENT~~  
10 ~~FINANCIAL~~] ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES; TRACKING  
11 ACADEMIC PROGRESS.

12 SECTION 2. Section 56.006, Education Code, is amended by  
13 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as  
14 follows:

15 (a) Each institution of higher education shall ensure that  
16 one or more persons employed by the institution is trained:

17 (1) in understanding state and federal student  
18 financial assistance programs available to military veterans or  
19 their family members, especially programs specifically applicable  
20 to military veterans or their family members; [~~and~~]

21 (2) in assisting military veterans and eligible family  
22 members in understanding and obtaining the benefits available under  
23 those programs; and

24 (3) in tracking, through the electronic auditing

1 system as described by Subsection (a-1), the academic progress of  
2 military veterans or family members of veterans receiving student  
3 financial assistance, in verifying the information provided by the  
4 system, and in providing guidance in understanding and using the  
5 information.

6 (a-1) Each institution of higher education shall adopt and  
7 maintain an electronic auditing system to verify the enrollment and  
8 completion of courses that count toward the degree plan of military  
9 veterans or family members of veterans receiving student financial  
10 assistance. The electronic auditing system must, through the  
11 institution's Internet website, allow a student described by this  
12 subsection to track the student's progress towards completing the  
13 student's degree plan.

14 SECTION 3. Each public institution of higher education in  
15 this state shall implement the electronic auditing system as  
16 required by Section 56.006, Education Code, as amended by this Act,  
17 beginning with the 2014 fall semester.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.