

1-1 By: Thompson of Harris (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.B. No. 2000
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2013;
 1-3 May 8, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on Economic
 1-4 Development; May 16, 2013, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0;
 1-6 May 16, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2000 By: Hancock

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the qualification of certain nonprofit schools and
 1-20 educational institutions for exemption from state laws regulating
 1-21 career schools and colleges and to complaints made against those
 1-22 entities.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 132.002, Education Code, is amended by
 1-25 adding Subsections (d-1), (h), (i), (j), and (k) to read as follows:

1-26 (d-1) A school or educational institution exempted from
 1-27 this chapter is authorized to offer training in this state allowed
 1-28 by the exemption.

1-29 (h) A school or educational institution that participates
 1-30 or intends to participate in student financial aid programs under
 1-31 Title IV, Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 1070 et
 1-32 seq.), may not be exempted from this chapter by the commission on
 1-33 the basis of Subsection (a)(2) unless the school or institution
 1-34 demonstrates to the commission that:

1-35 (1) either:

1-36 (A) the school or institution is accredited by a
 1-37 regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the
 1-38 United States secretary of education; or

1-39 (B) the school or institution, or the primary
 1-40 campus of the school or institution, has been operating
 1-41 continuously in this state for at least 20 years in compliance with
 1-42 state career school regulatory requirements, regardless of the
 1-43 amount of time the current owner has owned the school or
 1-44 institution; or

1-45 (2) the school or institution:

1-46 (A) is owned, controlled, operated, and
 1-47 maintained by a religious organization lawfully operating as a
 1-48 nonprofit religious corporation; and

1-49 (B) awards only degrees or certificates relating
 1-50 to religion, including a certificate of Talmudic studies, an
 1-51 associate of biblical studies degree, a master of divinity degree,
 1-52 or a doctor of divinity degree.

1-53 (i) For purposes of Subsection (h)(1)(B), "primary campus"
 1-54 means, for two or more schools or educational institutions that are
 1-55 owned and operated by the same owner, the school or educational
 1-56 institution designated by the owner as the main or principal
 1-57 campus.

1-58 (j) A school or educational institution may demonstrate
 1-59 compliance with Subsection (h):

1-60 (1) through the application process under Subsection

2-1 (d); or
2-2 (2) if the school or institution has previously been
2-3 granted an exemption from this chapter and the most recent
2-4 exemption was granted before June 30, 2013, by an affidavit
2-5 submitted to the commission by the owner of the school or
2-6 institution.

2-7 (k) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
2-8 take appropriate action, including by making appropriate referrals
2-9 to an accrediting agency or to the attorney general, to address any
2-10 complaint received by the coordinating board from a student or
2-11 prospective student of a school or institution to which Subsection
2-12 (h) applies that is:

2-13 (1) exempted from this chapter on the basis of
2-14 Subsection (a)(2); and

2-15 (2) subject to regulation by the coordinating board.

2-16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-20 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

2-21 * * * * *