

By: Birdwell

S.B. No. 436

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to administration of collegiate learning assessments to students at general academic teaching institutions.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F-1. COLLEGIATE LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Sec. 51.321. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Collegiate learning assessment" means the Collegiate Learning Assessment or other comparable assessment instrument approved for purposes of this subchapter by the coordinating board.

(2) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(3) "General academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

Sec. 51.322. ASSESSMENT REQUIRED; PURPOSES. Each general academic teaching institution shall administer a collegiate learning assessment in accordance with this subchapter to:

(1) measure student learning;
(2) foster a transparent learning environment; and
(3) ensure that the institution is accountable for educating the institution's students by measuring the institution's contributions to student educational development.

1 Sec. 51.323. ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE. A collegiate learning
2 assessment shall be administered as follows:

3 (1) to each entering freshman student at a general
4 academic teaching institution before the first day of class; and

5 (2) to each student at a general academic teaching
6 institution during the semester or other academic term in which the
7 student is on track to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

8 Sec. 51.324. DEFERMENTS. (a) A student who is unable to
9 take a collegiate learning assessment during a required period
10 described by Section 51.323 may submit to the vice president of
11 academic affairs or other appropriate official as designated by the
12 general academic teaching institution a request to defer taking the
13 assessment. The official shall grant the request if the official
14 determines that the student is unable to take the assessment during
15 the required period due to extenuating circumstances as established
16 by institution policy.

17 (b) A student must submit a request for a deferment under
18 Subsection (a), in the manner prescribed by the institution,
19 either:

20 (1) before the official date of the assessment; or
21 (2) if there is not an official assessment date,
22 before the final day of the semester or other academic term in which
23 the student is required to take the assessment.

24 (c) A student granted a deferment under this section shall
25 take the assessment during the institution's first administration
26 of the assessment following the end of the deferment period.

27 Sec. 51.325. FAILURE TO TAKE ASSESSMENT. If a student fails

1 to take a collegiate learning assessment in accordance with Section
2 51.323 and either is not granted a deferment or is granted a
3 deferment but fails to comply with Section 51.324(c), any general
4 academic teaching institution:

5 (1) may not allow the student to register for classes
6 unless the student is admitted or readmitted to the institution in
7 accordance with Section 51.326; and

8 (2) shall refuse to release the student's official
9 transcript to the student for a reasonable period in accordance
10 with institution policy.

11 Sec. 51.326. ADMISSION OR READMISSION AFTER FAILURE TO TAKE
12 ASSESSMENT. (a) A student described by Section 51.325 may not be
13 accepted for admission or readmission to any general academic
14 teaching institution for a semester or other academic term until
15 the second academic term following the initial academic term for
16 which the student was disallowed from registering for classes under
17 Section 51.325(1).

18 (b) A student described by Section 51.325 who is admitted or
19 readmitted to a general academic teaching institution must take the
20 appropriate collegiate learning assessment during the
21 institution's first administration of the assessment following the
22 student's enrollment.

23 (c) An institution shall immediately expel a student who
24 fails to take the assessment as required by Subsection (b).

25 Sec. 51.327. TRANSFER STUDENTS. A student who transfers
26 into a general academic teaching institution must take the
27 collegiate learning assessment before registering for classes.

1 Sec. 51.328. EXCUSED ABSENCE. (a) A general academic
2 teaching institution shall excuse a student from attending classes
3 or completing an assignment as necessary for the student to take a
4 collegiate learning assessment in accordance with this subchapter.

5 (b) The institution shall allow a student with an excused
6 absence under this section to make up any class assignment,
7 including any examination, that is due or administered during the
8 student's excused absence. The student shall be provided a
9 reasonable period in which to make up the original assignment or be
10 provided with a makeup assignment that is:

11 (1) similar in content and expectations to the missed
12 assignment; and

13 (2) provided within a reasonable time after the
14 excused absence.

15 Sec. 51.329. REPORTING AND TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS. (a)
16 Each general academic teaching institution shall report the results
17 of the collegiate learning assessment to the coordinating board at
18 the time and in a manner established by coordinating board rule.

19 (b) Each general academic teaching institution shall
20 include a student's collegiate learning assessment scores on the
21 student's official transcript.

22 Sec. 51.330. RULES. The coordinating board shall adopt
23 rules as necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

24 SECTION 2. (a) Subchapter F-1, Chapter 51, Education Code,
25 as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2014 fall semester.

26 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
27 adopt rules for the administration of Subchapter F-1, Chapter 51,

1 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after
2 this Act takes effect.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.