

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1741

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to training requirements applicable to members of the governing board of a public institution of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.084, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) and Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(a) The board by rule shall establish a training program for members of the governing boards of institutions of higher education. Each member of a governing board of an institution of higher education shall attend, during the member's first year [~~two years~~] of service as a member of a governing board of an institution of higher education, at least one training program under this section. A member of a governing board who is required to attend a training program under this section may attend additional training programs under this section.

(a-1) The board's rules must require a governing board member as part of the training program to attend any available training course sponsored or coordinated by the office of the governor with a curriculum designed for training newly appointed state officers, board members, or high-level executive officials. The rules must require the member to attend the course the first time the course is offered following the date the member takes the oath of office, regardless of whether that attendance is required

1 under other law. The rules may provide a governing board member
2 additional time to attend the course if the member for good cause is
3 unable to attend the course the first time the course is offered.
4 Subsection (g) does not apply to the course required by this
5 subsection.

6 (h) The board is responsible for documenting completion of
7 the requirements in this Section.

8 SECTION 2. Section 61.0841, Education Code, is added to
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 61.0841. INTENSE SHORT COURSE. (a) The board shall
11 develop an intense short orientation course that a governing board
12 member must complete before they vote at a meeting of the governing
13 board. The course can be a written document, an online interactive
14 course, or taken in a one-to-one or group setting.

15 (b) The content of the instruction provided by the course
16 shall include:

17 (1) best practices relating to excellence,
18 transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the governing
19 structure and organization of state university and state university
20 systems;

21 (2) best practices relating to the manner in which
22 governing boards and administrators of state universities and state
23 university systems develop and implement major policy decisions,
24 including impartiality and adequacy of their processes;

25 (3) matters relating to excellence, transparency,
26 accountability, and efficiency in the governance and
27 administration of the state's universities and university systems;

1 and

2 (4) ethics, conflicts of interests, and the proper
3 role of a board member in the governance structure of state
4 universities and university systems.

5 (c) The board is responsible for documenting completion of
6 the requirements of this Section.

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