

By: Hernandez

H.B. No. 951

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study conducted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the qualification for and performance at institutions of higher education of certain students who completed certain mathematics courses during high school.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.07612 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.07612. STUDY ON QUALIFICATION AND PERFORMANCE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPLETING CERTAIN MATHEMATICS COURSES. (a) Each academic year, the board shall conduct a study regarding the qualification for and performance at institutions of higher education of students graduating from school districts in low-income areas, as defined by the board, who completed certain mathematics courses during high school.

(b) The study must include a comparison of:

(1) acceptance rates at institutions of higher education between students who, under the foundation high school program under Section 28.025, successfully completed Algebra II and students who successfully completed another advanced mathematics course in place of Algebra II;

(2) retention rates at institutions of higher education between students who successfully completed the curriculum requirements established under Section 28.025 for the

distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program and students who did not; and

(3) between students who earned the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics endorsement under Section 28.025(c-1) and students who earned another endorsement or did not earn an endorsement under that section, eligibility rates for:

(A) the following merit-based financial aid programs:

(i) the TEXAS grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 56;

(ii) the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program under Subchapter P, Chapter 56; and

(iii) the Texas B-On-time loan program under Subchapter Q, Chapter 56; or

(B) automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution under Section 51.803.

(c) Not later than September 1 of each year, the board shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over education a report regarding the results of the study under this section and any recommendations for legislative or administrative action.

(d) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section in a manner that ensures compliance with federal law regarding confidentiality of student educational information, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g).

(e) This section expires December 1, 2019.

1 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2016, the Texas
2 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall submit its initial report
3 required by Section 61.07612, Education Code, as added by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.