

By: Sheffield

H.B. No. 1256

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to student members of the board of regents of a state  
3 university or state university system.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 51.355(c), (d), and (d-1), Education  
6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (f), not later than  
8 November 1 of each year, the student government of each general  
9 academic teaching institution and medical and dental unit in a  
10 university system shall solicit applicants for appointment to the  
11 next regular term of the position of student regent. Not later than  
12 January 1, from among the applications received by the student  
13 government, the student government shall select five applicants as  
14 the student government's recommendations for the position of  
15 student regent and send the applications of those applicants to the  
16 chancellor of the university system. From among those applicants,  
17 the chancellor shall select two or more applicants as the  
18 university system's recommendations for the position of student  
19 regent and shall send the applications of those applicants to the  
20 governor not later than February 1. The governor may request to  
21 review all applications for the position of student regent received  
22 by the student governments and may request an applicant to submit  
23 additional information to the governor. On June 1, or as soon  
24 thereafter as practicable, the governor shall appoint one of the

1 applicants to serve as the student regent for the system for a  
2 one-year term expiring on the next May 31. The governor is not  
3 required to appoint an applicant recommended by the chancellor, but  
4 may not appoint a student regent who did not submit an application  
5 to the student government of a general academic teaching  
6 institution or medical and dental unit in the system as described by  
7 this subsection.

8 (d) To be eligible for appointment as student regent, a  
9 person must be enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student in a  
10 general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit in  
11 the university system, have been enrolled in the institution in the  
12 two semesters preceding the term for which the person is appointed,  
13 and be in good academic and disciplinary standing, as determined by  
14 the institution, at the time of appointment and during the two  
15 semesters preceding the term for which the person is  
16 appointed. The person must remain enrolled at the institution  
17 throughout the person's term as a student regent. For purposes of  
18 this subsection, a person is considered to be enrolled in an  
19 institution or unit for a summer term if the person was enrolled in  
20 the institution or unit for the preceding semester and:

21 (1) is registered or preregistered at the institution  
22 or unit for the following fall semester;

23 (2) if the person has not completed the person's degree  
24 program, is eligible to continue the degree program at the  
25 institution or unit in the following fall semester; or

26 (3) if the person completed a degree program in the  
27 preceding semester, is admitted to another degree program at the

1 institution or unit for the following fall semester.

2 (d-1) Throughout a student regent's term, the student  
3 regent must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 [~~2.5~~] on  
4 a four-point scale on all coursework previously attempted at the  
5 institution and on all coursework previously attempted at any  
6 public or private institutions of higher education and remain in  
7 good academic and disciplinary standing with the institution, as  
8 determined by the institution. The president of the institution in  
9 which the student regent is enrolled shall notify the governor if  
10 the student regent fails to maintain the qualifications required by  
11 this section.

12 SECTION 2. Sections 51.356(d), (e), and (e-1), Education  
13 Code, are amended to read as follows:

14 (d) Not later than November 1 of each year, the student  
15 government of the general academic teaching institution shall  
16 solicit applicants for appointment to the next regular term of the  
17 position of student regent. Not later than January 1, from among  
18 the applications received by the student government, the student  
19 government shall select five applicants as the student government's  
20 recommendations for the position of student regent and send the  
21 applications of those applicants to the president of the  
22 institution. From among those applicants, the president shall  
23 select two or more applicants as the institution's recommendations  
24 for the position of student regent and shall send the applications  
25 of those applicants to the governor not later than February 1. The  
26 governor may request to review all applications for the position of  
27 student regent received by the student government and may request

1 an applicant to submit additional information to the governor. On  
2 June 1, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the governor shall  
3 appoint one of the applicants to serve as the student regent for the  
4 institution for a one-year term expiring on the next May 31. The  
5 governor is not required to appoint an applicant recommended by the  
6 president, but may not appoint a student regent who did not submit  
7 an application to the student government of the institution as  
8 described by this subsection.

9 (e) To be eligible for appointment as student regent, a  
10 person must be enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student in  
11 the general academic teaching institution, have been enrolled in  
12 the institution in the two semesters preceding the term for which  
13 the person is appointed, and be in good academic and disciplinary  
14 standing, as determined by the institution, at the time of  
15 appointment and during the two semesters preceding the term for  
16 which the person is appointed. The person must remain enrolled at  
17 the institution throughout the person's term as a student  
18 regent. For purposes of this subsection, a person is considered to  
19 be enrolled in an institution for a summer term if the person was  
20 enrolled in the institution for the preceding semester and:

21 (1) is registered or preregistered at the institution  
22 for the following fall semester;

23 (2) if the person has not completed the person's degree  
24 program, is eligible to continue the degree program at the  
25 institution in the following fall semester; or

26 (3) if the person completed a degree program in the  
27 preceding semester, is admitted to another degree program at the

1 institution for the following fall semester.

2 (e-1) Throughout a student regent's term, the student  
3 regent must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 [~~2.5~~] on  
4 a four-point scale on all coursework previously attempted at the  
5 institution and on all coursework previously attempted at any  
6 public or private institutions of higher education and remain in  
7 good academic and disciplinary standing with the institution, as  
8 determined by the institution. The president of the institution in  
9 which the student regent is enrolled shall notify the governor if  
10 the student regent fails to maintain the qualifications required by  
11 this section.

12 SECTION 3. Sections [51.355\(c\)](#) and [51.356\(d\)](#), Education  
13 Code, as amended by this Act, are intended only to clarify existing  
14 law with respect to the appointment of student members of the board  
15 of regents of a state university or state university system.

16 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections  
17 [51.355\(d\)](#) and (d-1) and [51.356\(e\)](#) and (e-1), Education Code, apply  
18 only to a student regent appointed to the board of regents of a  
19 state university system or a state university on or after the  
20 effective date of this Act.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
23 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.