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S.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a requirement that certain entering students at a general academic teaching institution receive information regarding mental health and suicide prevention services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9194 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9194. REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR ENTERING STUDENTS REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES. (a) A general academic teaching institution shall provide to each entering full-time undergraduate, graduate, or professional student, including each full-time undergraduate, graduate, or professional student who transfers to the institution, information about:

(1) available mental health and suicide prevention services offered by the institution or by any associated organizations or programs; and

(2) early warning signs that are often present in and appropriate intervention for a person who may be considering suicide.

(b) The information required under this section:

(1) may be provided through:

(A) a live presentation; or

(B) a format that allows for student interaction,

1 such as an online program or video, and that lasts not more than 15
2 minutes; and

3 (2) may not be provided in a paper format only.

4 SECTION 2. Section 51.9194, Education Code, as added by
5 this Act, applies to full-time entering students who are admitted
6 to an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree program at a
7 general academic teaching institution beginning with the 2016 fall
8 semester.

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