

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a requirement that entering undergraduate students at a
3 public institution of higher education attend an orientation
4 regarding mental health and suicide prevention services.

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

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

8 Sec. 51.9194. REQUIRED ORIENTATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE
9 STUDENTS REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES.

10 (a) An institution of higher education shall require each entering
11 undergraduate student, including each undergraduate student who
12 transfers to the institution, to attend an orientation that
13 includes information about:

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

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

20 (b) The orientation under this section must be in the form
21 of a live presentation.

22 SECTION 2. Section 51.9194, Education Code, as added by
23 this Act, applies beginning with entering undergraduate students
24 admitted to an institution of higher education beginning with the

1 2016 fall semester.

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