

By: Murphy

H.B. No. 385

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the elimination of certain formula funding and dropped course restrictions for students enrolled in accelerated, affordable baccalaureate programs at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.907, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) This section does not apply to a student enrolled in an accelerated baccalaureate program created in collaboration with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that uses a competency-based model and year-round flat-rate tuition to facilitate degree completion, as verified by the coordinating board.

SECTION 2. Section 61.059, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (r) to read as follows:

(r) Notwithstanding any other law, the board may not exclude from being counted in the hours reported to the Legislative Budget Board for formula funding contact hours or semester credit hours for a student's enrollment in a course for which the student has previously generated formula funding for the same course if the student is enrolled in an accelerated baccalaureate program created in collaboration with the board that uses a competency-based model and year-round flat-rate tuition to facilitate degree completion,

1 as verified by the board.

2 SECTION 3. Section 61.0595, Education Code, is amended by  
3 adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

4 (f-1) In the formulas established under Section 61.059, the  
5 board shall include without consideration of Subsection (a) or (e)  
6 funding for semester credit hours earned by a student who is  
7 enrolled in an accelerated baccalaureate program created by an  
8 institution in collaboration with the board that uses a  
9 competency-based model and year-round flat-rate tuition to  
10 facilitate degree completion, as verified by the board.

11 SECTION 4. Section 51.907(b-1), Education Code, as added by  
12 this Act, applies beginning with the fall 2017 semester.

13 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections  
14 61.059 and 61.0595, Education Code, apply beginning with funding  
15 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the  
16 state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019.

17 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.