

By: Clardy

H.B. No. 654

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the elimination of certain formula funding and dropped course restrictions for returning adult students at public institutions of higher education and to the tuition rate that may be charged to those students for certain excessive undergraduate hours.

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

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

(e-1) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules under which an institution of higher education shall permit a student to drop one additional course under circumstances described by Subsection (b) than the number of courses permitted to be dropped under Subsection (c) or under a policy adopted under Subsection (d) if the student:

(1) has reenrolled at the institution following a break in enrollment covering the 24-month period preceding the first class day of the initial semester or other academic term of the student's reenrollment; and

(2) successfully completed at least 50 semester credit hours of course work at the institution before that break in enrollment.

SECTION 2. Section 54.014, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

1        (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), an institution of  
2 higher education may not charge tuition to a resident undergraduate  
3 student at a higher rate under that subsection for semester credit  
4 hours for courses taken by the student that are required to be  
5 included by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in the  
6 formulas established under Section 61.059 by application of Section  
7 61.0595(f-1).

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

10       (f-1) In the formulas established under Section 61.059, the  
11 board shall include without consideration of Subsection (a) or (e)  
12 funding for the first 15 additional semester credit hours earned by  
13 a student who:

14               (1) has reenrolled at the institution following a  
15 break in enrollment covering the 24-month period preceding the  
16 first class day of the initial semester or other academic term of  
17 the student's reenrollment; and

18               (2) successfully completed at least 50 semester credit  
19 hours of course work at the institution before that break in  
20 enrollment.

21        SECTION 4. Section 51.907, Education Code, as amended by  
22 this Act, applies beginning with the 2017 fall semester.

23        SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Section  
24 61.0595, Education Code, apply beginning with funding  
25 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the  
26 state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019.

27        SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.