

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 2537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to requiring public schools to provide information to  
3 certain students on the availability of financial assistance for  
4 postsecondary education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 33.007(b), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a  
9 high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment  
10 charter school, and again during each year of a student's  
11 enrollment in high school or at the high school level, a school  
12 counselor shall provide information about postsecondary education  
13 to the student and the student's parent or guardian. The  
14 information must include information regarding:

- 15 (1) the importance of postsecondary education;
- 16 (2) the advantages of earning an endorsement and a  
17 performance acknowledgment and completing the distinguished level  
18 of achievement under the foundation high school program under  
19 Section 28.025;
- 20 (3) the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for  
21 a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of  
22 taking courses leading to a high school diploma;
- 23 (4) financial aid eligibility;
- 24 (5) instruction on how to apply for federal financial

1 aid;

2 (6) the center for financial aid information  
3 established under Section 61.0776;

4 (7) the automatic admission of certain students to  
5 general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section  
6 51.803;

7 (8) the eligibility and academic performance  
8 requirements for the TEXAS Grant as provided by Subchapter M,  
9 Chapter 56; ~~and~~

10 (9) the availability of programs in the district under  
11 which a student may earn college credit, including advanced  
12 placement programs, dual credit programs, joint high school and  
13 college credit programs, and international baccalaureate programs;  
14 and

15 (10) the availability of education and training  
16 vouchers and tuition and fee waivers to attend an institution of  
17 higher education as provided by Section 54.366 for a student who is  
18 or was previously in the conservatorship of the Department of  
19 Family and Protective Services.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.