

Suspending limitations on conference committee
jurisdiction, S.B. No. 968 (Watson/Alvarado)

By: Alvarado

H.R. No. 2609

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Texas, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, That House Rule 13,
3 Section 9(a), be suspended in part as provided by House Rule 13,
4 Section 9(f), to enable the conference committee appointed to
5 resolve the differences on Senate Bill 968 (a sexual assault policy
6 at certain public and private institutions of higher education and
7 to requiring those institutions to provide students and employees
8 an option to electronically report certain offenses to the
9 institution) to consider and take action on the following matter:

10 House Rule 13, Section 9(a)(4), is suspended to permit the
11 committee to add text on a matter which is not included in either
12 the house or senate version of the bill in SECTION 1 of the bill, in
13 amended Section 51.9363, Education Code, to read as follows:

14 Sec. 51.9363. [~~CAMPUS~~] SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY. (a) In this
15 section, "postsecondary educational institution" means an
16 [~~"]~~institution of higher education or a private or independent
17 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined[" ~~has~~
18 ~~the meaning assigned~~] by Section 61.003.

19 (b) Each postsecondary educational institution [~~of higher~~
20 ~~education~~] shall adopt a policy on [~~campus~~] sexual assault
21 applicable to each student enrolled at and each employee of the
22 institution. The policy must:

23 (1) include:

24 (A) definitions of prohibited behavior;

1 (B) sanctions for violations; and

2 (C) the protocol for reporting and responding to
3 reports of [~~campus~~] sexual assault; and

4 (2) be approved by the institution's governing board
5 before final adoption by the institution.

6 (c) Each postsecondary educational institution [~~of higher~~
7 ~~education~~] shall make the institution's [~~campus~~] sexual assault
8 policy available to students, faculty, and staff members by:

9 (1) including the policy in the institution's student
10 handbook and personnel handbook; and

11 (2) creating and maintaining a web page on the
12 institution's Internet website dedicated solely to the policy.

13 (d) Each postsecondary educational institution [~~of higher~~
14 ~~education~~] shall require each entering freshman or undergraduate
15 transfer student to attend an orientation on the institution's
16 [~~campus~~] sexual assault policy before or during the first semester
17 or term in which the student is enrolled at the institution. The
18 institution shall establish the format and content of the
19 orientation.

20 Explanation: This addition is necessary to expand to private
21 or independent institutions of higher education the requirements
22 regarding a sexual assault policy and to require the policy to
23 encompass all incidents of sexual assault, regardless of whether
24 those incidents occur on or off campus.