

By: West

S.B. No. 331

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the temporary approval of a private or independent college or university to continue to participate in the tuition equalization grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.222, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.222. APPROVED INSTITUTIONS. (a) The coordinating board shall approve for purposes of this subchapter only a ~~[these]~~ private or independent college ~~[colleges]~~ or university ~~[universities]~~ that:

(1) is a ~~[are]~~ private or independent institution ~~[institutions]~~ of higher education; ~~[as defined by Section 61.003]~~

or

(2) is ~~[are]~~ located within this state and meets ~~[meet]~~ the same program standards and accreditation as an institution ~~[public institutions]~~ of higher education, as determined by the board.

(b) The coordinating board may temporarily approve a private or independent college or university ~~[institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003]~~ that previously qualified for approval as a private or independent institution of higher education under Subsection (a)(1) ~~[under Subsection (a)]~~ but no longer holds the ~~[same]~~ accreditation described by Section

1 61.003(15)(C) if the college or university is ~~[as public~~
2 ~~institutions of higher education. To qualify under this~~
3 ~~subsection, an institution must be]~~:

4 (1) accredited by an accreditor recognized by the
5 board;

6 (2) actively working toward the ~~[same]~~ accreditation
7 described by Section 61.003(15)(C) ~~[as public institutions of~~
8 ~~higher education]~~;

9 (3) participating in the federal financial aid program
10 under 20 U.S.C. Section 1070a; and

11 (4) a "part B institution" as defined by 20 U.S.C.
12 Section 1061(2) and listed in 34 C.F.R. Section 608.2.

13 (c) The coordinating board may grant temporary approval for
14 a period of two years and may renew the approval twice ~~[once]~~.

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