

By: West

S.B. No. 1782

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.

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 from the institution or another institution of higher education 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 an institution of higher education before that break in enrollment.

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

1 from the number of semester credit hours reported to the
2 Legislative Budget Board for formula funding under this section
3 semester credit hours for any course taken up to three times by a
4 student who:

5 (1) has reenrolled at an institution of higher
6 education following a break in enrollment from the institution or
7 another institution of higher education covering the 24-month
8 period preceding the first class day of the initial semester or
9 other academic term of the student's reenrollment; and

10 (2) successfully completed at least 50 semester credit
11 hours of course work at an institution of higher education before
12 that break in enrollment.

13 SECTION 3. Section 61.0595(d), Education Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (d) The following are not counted for purposes of
16 determining whether the student has previously earned the number of
17 semester credit hours specified by Subsection (a):

18 (1) semester credit hours earned by the student before
19 receiving a baccalaureate degree that has previously been awarded
20 to the student;

21 (2) semester credit hours earned by the student by
22 examination or under any other procedure by which credit is earned
23 without registering for a course for which tuition is charged;

24 (3) credit for a remedial education course, a
25 technical course, a workforce education course funded according to
26 contact hours, or another course that does not count toward a degree
27 program at the institution;

1 (4) semester credit hours earned by the student at a
2 private institution or an out-of-state institution; ~~and~~

3 (5) semester credit hours earned by the student before
4 graduating from high school and used to satisfy high school
5 graduation requirements; and

6 (6) the first additional 15 semester credit hours
7 earned toward a degree program by a student who:

8 (A) has reenrolled at an institution of higher
9 education following a break in enrollment from the institution or
10 another institution of higher education covering the 24-month
11 period preceding the first class day of the initial semester or
12 other academic term of the student's reenrollment; and

13 (B) successfully completed at least 50 semester
14 credit hours of course work at an institution of higher education
15 before that break in enrollment.

16 SECTION 4. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
17 Board shall adopt the rules required by Section 51.907(e-1),
18 Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than June 1, 2018.

19 (b) The change in law made by this Act to Section 51.907,
20 Education Code, applies beginning with the 2018 fall semester.

21 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
22 61.059 and 61.0595, Education Code, apply beginning with funding
23 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the
24 state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019.

25 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.