

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

By: Watson

S.R. No. 931

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th  
2 Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, That Senate Rule 12.03 be  
3 suspended in part as provided by Senate Rule 12.08 to enable the  
4 conference committee appointed to resolve the differences on Senate  
5 Bill 968 (a sexual assault policy at certain public and private  
6 institutions of higher education and to requiring those  
7 institutions to provide students and employees an option to  
8 electronically report certain offenses to the institution) to  
9 consider and take action on the following matter:

10 Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to  
11 add text on a matter which is not included in either the house or  
12 senate version of the bill in SECTION 1 of the bill, in amended  
13 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.