86R4219 KJE-F

By:  Neave H.B. No. 617

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the response by certain public and private institutions of higher education to reports of sexual assault at those institutions.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0666 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0666.  STUDY AND REPORT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT AT POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. (a) In this section, "postsecondary educational institution" means:

(1)  an institution of higher education; or

(2)  a private or independent college or university approved for purposes of the tuition equalization grant program under Subchapter F.

(b)  The board shall conduct a study regarding the response by postsecondary educational institutions to reports of sexual assault committed against students enrolled at those institutions. The study must identify policies adopted by those institutions that have the effect of deterring students from reporting incidents of sexual assault or of hindering investigations of those reports.

(c)  Not later than December 1, 2020, the board shall submit to the legislature a report on the board's findings. The report must include information regarding the policies identified under Subsection (b).

(d)  This section expires September 1, 2021.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.