By:  Seliger, Zaffirini S.B. No. 828

(In the Senate - Filed February 14, 2019; March 1, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education; March 21, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 21, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton       X

West            X

Bettencourt     X

Buckingham      X

Flores          X

Menéndez        X

Powell          X

Taylor          X

Watson          X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the name of the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 131, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 131. SOUTHWEST COLLEGE [~~COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE~~] FOR THE DEAF

Sec. 131.001.  SOUTHWEST COLLEGE [~~COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE~~] FOR THE DEAF. The Southwest College [~~Collegiate Institute~~] for the Deaf is a postsecondary educational institution providing instruction for hearing-impaired students preparing for a career or for enrollment in a senior college or university.

Sec. 131.002.  ADMINISTRATION. (a)  The college [~~institute~~] is under the direct control and management of the board of trustees of the Howard Junior College District.

(b)  The college [~~institute~~] and its programs shall be administered by personnel who are trained and qualified to work with hearing-impaired students and are fluent in manual communication skills.

Sec. 131.003.  LOCATION. The college [~~institute~~] is located on land deeded to the governing board by the federal Department of Education for the purpose of operating the college [~~institute~~]. The governing board may not conduct regular junior college programs for students with unimpaired hearing on the college [~~institute~~] campus except as an integral part of the program offered to hearing-impaired students when:

(1)  it is educationally appropriate to enroll hearing students in classes for the hearing-impaired; or

(2)  special programs are needed to train hearing and hearing-impaired persons to become professional service providers for the deaf.

Sec. 131.004.  COURSES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES. (a)  The college [~~institute~~] shall offer, but is not limited to offering, the following courses, programs, and services for hearing-impaired post-secondary students:

(1)  learning development services, including academic counseling, tutorial services, reading instruction, services to counter learning disabilities, and library-related services;

(2)  communications services, including interpreters for academic and nonacademic functions, speech therapy, and auditory evaluation and training;

(3)  academic college preparatory courses;

(4)  career analysis services designed to assist each student in identifying a career interest, considering the student's aptitudes, abilities, and skills;

(5)  regular college courses, including vocational and technical education and liberal arts courses;

(6)  extracurricular activities, including intramural athletics; and

(7)  postgraduation services, including job placement services and services designed to orient employers to hearing-impaired workers.

(b)  The course work offered by the college [~~institute~~] shall emphasize self-contained classrooms with instruction conducted by instructors who are trained and qualified to work with hearing-impaired students and are fluent in manual communication skills. Hearing-impaired students may enroll in integrated classes that are regular classes offered to students with unimpaired hearing enrolled in the junior college.

(c)  The programs, services, and facilities of the college [~~institute~~] shall be designed to be appropriate to the needs of hearing-impaired students.

(d)  The executive director shall determine which courses offered by the college [~~institute~~] are appropriate for an electronic display on a screen or terminal, with less than 30 seconds delay, of a speaker's spoken message. The college [~~institute~~] shall implement the electronic display in those courses.

Sec. 131.005.  TUITION. (a)  A Texas resident student enrolled in the college [~~institute~~] is exempt from tuition fees under Section 54.364.

(b)  A student who is not a resident of Texas shall pay tuition at a rate that is the lesser of:

(1)  the rate provided by this code for a nonresident student enrolled at a general academic teaching institution; or

(2)  a rate determined by the board of trustees and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board[~~, Texas College and University System~~] to be the approximate cost to the college [~~institute~~], not including room and board, of educating a student during the academic year beginning the next fall.

Sec. 131.006.  APPROPRIATIONS; GRANTS. (a)  The governing board of the college [~~institute~~] may receive appropriations for the college's [~~institute's~~] operations only if the board operates the college [~~institute~~] in compliance with this chapter.

(b)  The board may accept gifts, grants, or donations of money or property given to the college [~~institute~~] for the college's [~~institute's~~] exclusive use in carrying out the purposes of this subchapter.

(c)  The board may expend appropriated funds for maintenance and operation, including the maintenance and operation of student housing and food service, unless the funds are specifically restricted to another purpose by the appropriation.

SECTION 2.  Section 51.911(a)(1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1)  "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by [~~Subdivision (7) of~~] Section 61.003 of this code, but includes the Southwest College [~~Collegiate Institute~~] for the Deaf and Texas State Technical College System [~~Institute~~].

SECTION 3.  Section 51.925(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by [~~Subdivision (7) of~~] Section 61.003 of this code, except that the term includes the Southwest College [~~Collegiate Institute~~] for the Deaf and Texas State Technical College System [~~Institute~~].

SECTION 4.  Section 54.364(a)(5), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(5)  "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, except that the term includes the Southwest College [~~Collegiate Institute~~] for the Deaf.

SECTION 5.  Section 31.001(8), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(8)  "Institution of higher education" means the Texas State Technical College System, the Southwest College [~~Collegiate Institute~~] for the Deaf, or an institution of higher education, excluding a public junior college, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

SECTION 6. (a)  The name of the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf is changed to the Southwest College for the Deaf.

(b)  A reference in law to the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf means the Southwest College for the Deaf.

(c)  An appropriation for the use or benefit of the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf is available for the use and benefit of the Southwest College for the Deaf.

SECTION 7.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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