

By: Neave

H.B. No. 535

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to completion and submission of a financial aid  
3 application for costs of higher education as a condition of high  
4 school graduation for public school students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.025(c), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (c) A person may receive a diploma if the person is eligible  
9 for a diploma under Section 28.0251. In other cases, a student may  
10 graduate and receive a diploma only if:

11 (1) the student successfully completes the curriculum  
12 requirements identified by the State Board of Education under  
13 Subsection (a) and complies with Sections 28.0256 and [Section]  
14 39.025; or

15 (2) the student successfully completes an  
16 individualized education program developed under Section 29.005.

17 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
18 amended by adding Section 28.0256 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 28.0256. FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION REQUIREMENT FOR  
20 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION. (a) Before graduating from high school,  
21 each student must complete and submit a free application for  
22 federal student aid (FAFSA) or, if applicable, a Texas application  
23 for state financial aid (TASFA).

24 (b) A student is not required to comply with Subsection (a)

1 if:

2 (1) the student's parent or other person standing in  
3 parental relation submits a signed form indicating that the parent  
4 or other person authorizes the student to decline to complete and  
5 submit the financial aid application; or

6 (2) the student signs and submits the form described  
7 by Subdivision (1) on the student's own behalf if the student is 18  
8 years of age or older or the student's disabilities of minority have  
9 been removed for general purposes under Chapter 31, Family Code.

10 (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school  
11 shall adopt a form to be used for purposes of Subsection (b).

12 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with students  
13 enrolled at the 12th grade level during the 2020-2021 school year.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.