

AN ACT

relating to measures to facilitate the timely graduation of and attainment of marketable skills by students in public higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9358 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9358. DESIGNATION OF SUPPORT SERVICES LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST STUDENTS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Each institution of higher education shall designate at least one employee of the institution to act as a liaison officer for current or incoming students at the institution. The liaison officer shall provide to the students comprehensive information regarding support services and other resources available to the students, including:

(1) resources to access:

(A) medical and behavioral health coverage and services; and

(B) public benefit programs, including programs related to food security, affordable housing, and housing

1 subsidies;
2 (2) public benefit program case management assistance
3 and counseling;
4 (3) parenting and child care resources;
5 (4) employment assistance;
6 (5) financial counseling and tax preparation
7 assistance;
8 (6) transportation assistance;
9 (7) student academic success strategies; and
10 (8) any other resources developed by the institution
11 to assist the students.

12 (c) An institution of higher education may designate under
13 Subsection (b) the same employee to act as liaison officer as the
14 employee designated under Section 51.9356 to act as liaison officer
15 for current and incoming students at the institution who were
16 formerly in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and
17 Protective Services.

18 SECTION 2. Section 51.9685(a)(2), Education Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (2) "Institution of higher education" has [~~and "public~~
21 ~~junior college" have~~] the meaning [~~meanings~~] assigned by Section
22 61.003.

23 SECTION 3. Section 51.9685, Education Code, is amended by
24 amending Subsections (b), (c), and (g) to read as follows:

25 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each
26 student enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an
27 institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the

1 institution after the 12th class day but before ~~[not later than]~~ the
2 end of the ~~[second regular]~~ semester or term immediately following
3 the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total
4 of 30 ~~[45]~~ or more semester credit hours for coursework
5 successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses,
6 international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any
7 other course for which the institution the student attends has
8 awarded the student college course credit, including course credit
9 awarded by examination.

10 (c) A student to whom Subsection (b) ~~[this section]~~ applies
11 who begins the student's first semester or term at an institution of
12 higher education with 30 ~~[45]~~ or more semester credit hours of
13 course credit for courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a
14 degree plan with the institution after the 12th class day but before
15 ~~[not later than]~~ the end of that ~~[the student's second regular]~~
16 semester or term ~~[at the institution]~~.

17 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in
18 consultation with institutions of higher education, shall ~~[may]~~
19 adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section,
20 including rules to ensure compliance with this section. In
21 adopting those rules, the coordinating board shall use the
22 negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government
23 Code.

24 SECTION 4. Section 56.074, Education Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 56.074. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; PARTICIPATION
27 REQUIREMENTS. (a) An eligible institution is:

1 (1) an institution of higher education; or

2 (2) a private or independent college, university,
3 association, agency, institution, or facility that is located in
4 this state which meets program standards and accreditation
5 comparable to public institutions as determined by the board.

6 (b) To participate in the Texas college work-study program,
7 an eligible institution must:

8 (1) provide employment to an eligible student in
9 nonpartisan and nonsectarian activities;

10 (2) provide, insofar as is practicable, employment to
11 an eligible student that is related to the student's academic
12 interests;

13 (3) use work-study program positions only to
14 supplement and not supplant positions normally filled by persons
15 not eligible to participate in the work-study program;

16 (4) provide from sources other than federal college
17 work-study program funds a percentage of an employed student's
18 wages that is equal to the percentage of a student's wages that the
19 eligible institution would be required to provide to the student in
20 that academic year under the federal college work-study program;
21 and

22 (5) provide from sources other than federal college
23 work-study funds 100 percent of other employee benefits for the
24 employed student.

25 SECTION 5. Section 56.078, Education Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 56.078. FUNDING. Funding to cover the state's

1 contribution toward the funding of the work-study program under
2 this subchapter and the Texas WORKS internship program under
3 Subchapter E-1 is payable from funds appropriated for that purpose.

4 SECTION 6. Section 56.082, Education Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 56.082. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than January 1 of
7 each year, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
8 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
9 house of representatives, and the standing legislative committees
10 with primary jurisdiction over higher education and post on the
11 coordinating board's Internet website a report on the Texas college
12 work-study program and the Texas WORKS internship program under
13 Subchapter E-1. The report must include the total number of
14 students employed through the programs [~~program~~], disaggregated
15 by:

- 16 (1) race, ethnicity, and gender;
- 17 (2) major and certificate or degree program;
- 18 (3) classification as a freshman, sophomore, junior,
19 or senior or the equivalent;
- 20 (4) enrollment in a full course load or less than a
21 full course load, as determined by the coordinating board;
- 22 (5) the employment position's location on or off
23 campus; and
- 24 (6) the employer's status as a for-profit or nonprofit
25 entity.

26 SECTION 7. Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding
27 Subchapter E-1 to read as follows:

1 SUBCHAPTER E-1. TEXAS WORKING OFF-CAMPUS: REINFORCING KNOWLEDGE
2 AND SKILLS (WORKS) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

3 Sec. 56.0851. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

4 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
5 Education Coordinating Board.

6 (2) "Eligible wages" means gross wages paid to an
7 individual student in the student's program employment.

8 (3) "Program" or "Texas WORKS internship program"
9 means the Texas Working Off-Campus: Reinforcing Knowledge and
10 Skills (WORKS) Internship Program.

11 Sec. 56.0852. PROGRAM NAME. The student financial
12 assistance program authorized by this subchapter is the Texas
13 Working Off-Campus: Reinforcing Knowledge and Skills (WORKS)
14 Internship Program.

15 Sec. 56.0853. PURPOSE. The purpose of the program is to
16 provide jobs funded in part by the State of Texas to enable students
17 employed through the program to attend public or private
18 institutions of higher education in Texas while exploring career
19 options and strengthening marketable skills.

20 Sec. 56.0854. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The coordinating board
21 shall administer the program and collaborate with eligible
22 employers to provide students employed through the program with
23 employment funded in part by the state.

24 (b) The coordinating board shall establish criteria to
25 ensure that:

26 (1) a participating employer is reimbursed under the
27 program at the rate established by the coordinating board only for

1 fully paid eligible wages; and

2 (2) marketable skills to be strengthened or gained
3 through a student's internship position are identified.

4 (c) The coordinating board shall develop a standard
5 contract establishing the roles and responsibilities of eligible
6 employers, base wages and minimum work hours for students employed
7 through the program, and any other provisions identified by the
8 coordinating board as necessary to administer the program. The
9 coordinating board shall use the standard contract as a model for
10 the memorandum of understanding required to be entered into by
11 eligible employers.

12 (d) The coordinating board may use funds appropriated for
13 the Texas college work-study program and the Texas WORKS internship
14 program to establish and maintain an online portal for use by
15 students and participating entities in fulfilling their
16 responsibilities for participation in the Texas WORKS internship
17 program. The coordinating board may use funds appropriated for the
18 Texas college work-study program and the Texas WORKS internship
19 program to cover the expenses and personnel costs of administering
20 and assessing the Texas WORKS internship program.

21 (e) If funding for the program is insufficient to cover the
22 cost of all students eligible for the program, as provided by
23 coordinating board rule, priority for funding is based on
24 eligibility criteria established by coordinating board rule to
25 further the purposes of the program.

26 (f) Funds received by students employed through the program
27 as eligible wages are not considered as financial aid for the

1 academic year in which the funds are earned.

2 Sec. 56.0855. ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER. (a) The coordinating
3 board may enter into agreements with employers that participate in
4 the program.

5 (b) To be eligible to enter into an agreement with the
6 coordinating board to participate in the program, an employer must:

7 (1) except as provided by Subsection (c), be a private
8 nonprofit or for-profit entity or a governmental entity;

9 (2) demonstrate the administrative and financial
10 capacity to carry out the employer's responsibilities under the
11 program, including the ability to pay full wages and benefits to a
12 student employed through the program;

13 (3) enter into a memorandum of understanding with the
14 coordinating board;

15 (4) provide employment to a student employed through
16 the program in nonpartisan and nonsectarian activities that relate
17 to the student's long-term career interests;

18 (5) use program positions only to supplement and not
19 supplant positions normally filled by persons who are not eligible
20 to participate in the program, as provided by coordinating board
21 rule;

22 (6) provide the entirety of an employed student's
23 wages and employee benefits;

24 (7) submit eligible wages to the coordinating board
25 for reimbursement; and

26 (8) comply with other requirements adopted by the
27 coordinating board under this subchapter.

1 (c) An employer is not eligible to participate in the
2 program if the employer is:

3 (1) a public or private institution of higher
4 education in Texas; or

5 (2) a career school or college, as defined by Section
6 132.001.

7 Sec. 56.0856. ADOPTION OF RULES. (a) The coordinating
8 board shall adopt reasonable rules, consistent with the purpose of
9 the program, to enforce the requirements, conditions, and
10 limitations provided by this subchapter.

11 (b) The coordinating board shall adopt rules necessary to
12 ensure compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI (Pub.
13 L. No. 88-352), concerning nondiscrimination in admissions or
14 employment.

15 Sec. 56.0857. ONLINE LIST OF TEXAS WORKS EMPLOYMENT
16 OPPORTUNITIES. The coordinating board shall:

17 (1) establish and maintain an online listing of Texas
18 WORKS internship program employment opportunities available to
19 students, sortable by employer, and include other relevant features
20 such as job description, job field, or skills required, as
21 appropriate; and

22 (2) ensure that the list is easily accessible to the
23 public through a clearly identifiable link that appears in a
24 prominent place on the coordinating board's Internet website.

25 SECTION 8. Section 130.0104(c), Education Code, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 (c) In complying with the requirements regarding the filing

1 of a degree plan under [~~Notwithstanding~~] Section 51.9685, [~~before~~
2 ~~the beginning of the regular semester or term immediately following~~
3 ~~the semester or term in which~~] a student enrolled [~~successfully~~
4 ~~completes a cumulative total of 30 or more semester credit hours for~~
5 ~~coursework~~] in a multidisciplinary studies associate degree
6 program established under this section [~~, the student~~] must meet
7 with an academic advisor to complete a degree plan [~~, as defined by~~
8 ~~Section 51.9685(a)(1),~~] that:

9 (1) accounts for all remaining credit hours required
10 for the completion of the degree program; and

11 (2) emphasizes:

12 (A) the student's transition to a particular
13 four-year college or university that the student chooses; and

14 (B) preparations for the student's intended
15 field of study or major at the four-year college or university.

16 SECTION 9. Sections 51.9685(c-1) and 56.076(b), Education
17 Code, are repealed.

18 SECTION 10. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
19 section, this Act applies beginning with the 2020 summer term.

20 (b) Section 51.9358, Education Code, as added by this Act,
21 and Sections 51.9685 and 130.0104, Education Code, as amended by
22 this Act, apply beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

23 SECTION 11. As soon as practicable after the effective date
24 of this Act, the commissioner of the Texas Higher Education
25 Coordinating Board shall develop the rules and procedures necessary
26 for the implementation of Subchapter E-1, Chapter 56, Education
27 Code, as added by this Act.

1 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect immediately if it
2 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
3 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
4 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
5 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3808 was passed by the House on April 25, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 126, Nays 7, 1 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3808 on May 24, 2019, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 3808 on May 26, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 11, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 3808

I certify that H.B. No. 3808 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 3808 on May 26, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor