

By: Johnson of Harris

H.B. No. 4124

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education
3 Coordinating Board on best practices to assist certain students in
4 completing the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA).

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 61.07763 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.07763. STUDY AND REPORT ON FREE APPLICATION FOR
9 FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) COMPLETION BEST PRACTICES. (a) The
10 board shall conduct a study to determine best practices to provide
11 assistance in completing and submitting the free application for
12 federal student aid (FAFSA) to an applicant who is a dependent of a
13 person who lacks the documentation necessary to complete the
14 application.

15 (b) The study must identify best practices to address the
16 lack of access to the following information required to complete
17 the FAFSA:

18 (1) federal income tax information;

19 (2) a social security number issued by the Social
20 Security Administration;

21 (3) an identification document, including a driver's
22 license, government-issued identification, United States passport,
23 Certificate of United States Citizenship, Certificate of
24 Naturalization, Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration

1 Receipt Card, Temporary Resident Card, Refugee Travel Document, or
2 Employment Authorization Document; and

3 (4) an alien registration number.

4 (c) In conducting the study, the board shall collaborate
5 with general academic teaching institutions, public junior
6 colleges, public technical institutes, public state colleges,
7 private or independent institutions of higher education, and rural
8 and urban career schools or colleges, as defined by Section
9 132.001.

10 (d) To the extent necessary, the board may consult with and
11 consider recommendations from federal agencies in conducting the
12 study.

13 (e) The recommendations resulting from the study may not
14 include any recommendation to deceive, mislead, or undermine the
15 United States Department of Education.

16 (f) Not later than November 1, 2020, the board shall submit
17 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house
18 of representatives, and the commissioner of education a written
19 report on the study's results and any recommendations for
20 legislative or other action.

21 (g) The board shall:

22 (1) provide a written copy of the report submitted
23 under Subsection (f) to each school district or open-enrollment
24 charter school high school counselor in this state; and

25 (2) post the report on the board's Internet website.

26 (h) This section expires September 1, 2021.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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