

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 4175

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to restrictions on the method of providing public speaking  
3 or similar courses by public institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 51.310 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.310. PUBLIC SPEAKING COURSE. (a) In this section,  
8 "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by  
9 Section 61.003.

10 (b) An institution of higher education may not offer a  
11 course in public speaking, speech, effective communications, or a  
12 similar topic online or through other distance learning methods if  
13 the course includes substantial oral performance or oral  
14 presentation requirements.

15 SECTION 2. Section 51.310, Education Code, as added by this  
16 Act, applies beginning with courses offered for the 2019 fall  
17 semester.

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