

By: Fierro

H.B. No. 4558

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the curriculum requirements in government or political
3 science at institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.301, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read
7 as follows:

8 (a) Every college and university receiving state support or
9 state aid from public funds shall offer six semester hours or its
10 equivalent of [~~give a~~] course [~~of~~] instruction in government or
11 political science, including three semester hours or its equivalent
12 of instruction that considers [~~which includes consideration of~~] the
13 Constitution of the United States and three semester hours or its
14 equivalent of instruction that considers the constitutions of the
15 states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. [~~This course shall~~
16 ~~have a credit value of not less than six semester hours or its~~
17 ~~equivalent.~~] Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or
18 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds
19 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or an associate of arts degree
20 or associate of science degree [~~a lesser degree or academic~~
21 ~~certificate~~] to any person unless the person has credit for the
22 instruction required by this subsection [~~such a course~~]. The
23 college or university may determine that a student has satisfied
24 this requirement in whole or in part on the basis of credit granted

1 to the student by the college or university for a substantially
2 equivalent course completed at another accredited college or
3 university or on the basis of the student's successful completion
4 of an advanced standing examination administered on the conditions
5 and under the circumstances common for the college or university's
6 advanced standing examinations. The college or university may
7 grant as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent
8 toward satisfaction of this requirement for substantially
9 equivalent work completed by the student in the program of an
10 approved senior R.O.T.C. unit. A student is entitled to apply
11 course credit not to exceed three semester hours or its equivalent
12 in Mexican American politics toward satisfaction of the course
13 requirement provided by this subsection.

14 (b) The requirement of Subsection (a) that the required
15 course instruction must include three semester hours or its
16 equivalent with a special emphasis on the Texas Constitution does
17 not apply to a degree granted on completion of an academic program
18 offered by a medical and dental unit, as that term is defined by
19 Section 61.003, to a student who is a member of the armed forces of
20 the United States, including the reserves or national guard, if:

21 (1) the program is operated by the medical and dental
22 unit under contract with the United States Army;

23 (2) the program requires less than two years of
24 residency in this state; and

25 (3) the principal participants in the program are
26 military personnel stationed outside this state.

27 (f) The course requirement provided by Subsection (a) does

1 not apply to:

2 (1) an associate of applied science degree; or

3 (2) an academic certificate.

4 SECTION 2. Section [51.301](#), Education Code, as amended by
5 this Act, applies to the curriculum requirements established for a
6 degree or certificate program without regard to whether the student
7 initially enrolled in the degree or certificate program before, on,
8 or after the effective date of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.