

By: Zaffirini, et al.

S.B. No. 37

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a prohibition on the use of student loan default or  
3 breach of a student loan repayment or scholarship contract as a  
4 ground for refusal to grant or renew an occupational license or  
5 other disciplinary action in relation to an occupational license.

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

7 SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 56, Occupations Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 CHAPTER 56. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST RECIPIENTS OF STUDENT  
10 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED

11 SECTION 2. Sections 56.001(3), (4), (5), and (6),  
12 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (3) "Licensing authority" means a department,  
14 commission, board, office, or other agency of the state or of a  
15 political subdivision of the state that issues a license.

16 (4) "Scholarship contract" means an agreement by this  
17 state, an agency of this state, a political subdivision of this  
18 state, or the United States to make a grant to a person to support  
19 the person while attending a public or private institution of  
20 higher education or other postsecondary educational establishment  
21 in exchange for the person's agreement to perform a service  
22 obligation.

23 (5) "Student loan" means a loan made to a person by a  
24 public or private entity to support the person while attending a

1 public or private institution of higher education or other  
2 postsecondary educational establishment [~~that is:~~

3 [~~(A) owed to this state, an agency of this state,~~  
4 ~~or the United States, or~~

5 [~~(B) guaranteed by this state, an agency of this~~  
6 ~~state, or the United States]~~.

7 (6) "Student loan repayment contract" means an  
8 agreement by this state, an agency of this state, a political  
9 subdivision of this state, or the United States to repay all or part  
10 of a person's student loan in exchange for the person's agreement to  
11 perform a service obligation.

12 SECTION 3. Section 56.003, Occupations Code, is amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 56.003. DISCIPLINARY [~~AUTHORITY TO TAKE~~] ACTION IN  
15 EVENT OF DEFAULT OR BREACH PROHIBITED. A [~~On receipt of information~~  
16 ~~from an administering entity that a person has defaulted on a~~  
17 ~~student loan or has breached a student loan repayment contract or~~  
18 ~~scholarship contract by failing to perform the person's service~~  
19 ~~obligation under the contract, a]~~ licensing authority may not take  
20 disciplinary action against a person based on the person's default  
21 on a student loan or breach of a student loan repayment contract or  
22 scholarship contract, including by:

23 (1) denying [~~deny~~] the person's application for a  
24 license or license renewal;

25 (2) suspending [~~suspend~~] the person's license; or

26 (3) taking [~~take~~] other disciplinary action against  
27 the person.

1 SECTION 4. Sections 157.015(f) and (g), Finance Code, are  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (f) The commissioner may deny the renewal application for a  
4 residential mortgage loan originator license for the same reasons  
5 and grounds on which the commissioner could have denied an original  
6 application for a license, other than on the basis of the person's  
7 default on a student loan.

8 (g) The commissioner may deny the renewal application for a  
9 residential mortgage loan originator license if:

10 (1) the person seeking the renewal of the residential  
11 mortgage loan originator license is in violation of this chapter,  
12 Chapter 156, or Chapter 180, an applicable rule adopted under this  
13 chapter, Chapter 156, or Chapter 180, or any order previously  
14 issued to the person by the commissioner;

15 (2) the person seeking renewal of the residential  
16 mortgage loan originator license is in default in the payment of any  
17 administrative penalty, fee, charge, or other indebtedness owed  
18 under this title; or

19 ~~(3) [the person seeking the renewal of the residential~~  
20 ~~mortgage loan originator license is in default on a student loan~~  
21 ~~administered by the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation,~~  
22 ~~under Section 57.491, Education Code, or~~

23 ~~[(4)]~~ during the current term of the license, the  
24 commissioner becomes aware of any fact that would have been grounds  
25 for denial of an original license if the fact had been known by the  
26 commissioner on the date the license was granted.

27 SECTION 5. Section 180.055(d), Finance Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (d) For purposes of Subsection (a)(3), an individual is  
3 considered not to be financially responsible if the individual has  
4 shown a lack of regard in managing the individual's own financial  
5 affairs or condition. A determination that an individual has not  
6 shown financial responsibility may not be based on the individual's  
7 default on a student loan but may include:

8 (1) an outstanding judgment against the individual,  
9 other than a judgment imposed solely as a result of medical  
10 expenses;

11 (2) an outstanding tax lien or other governmental  
12 liens and filings;

13 (3) a foreclosure during the three-year period  
14 preceding the date of the license application; and

15 (4) a pattern of seriously delinquent accounts, other  
16 than student loan accounts, during the three-year period preceding  
17 the date of the application.

18 SECTION 6. Sections 466.155(a) and (g), Government Code,  
19 are amended to read as follows:

20 (a) After a hearing, the director shall deny an application  
21 for a license or the commission shall suspend or revoke a license if  
22 the director or commission, as applicable, finds that the applicant  
23 or sales agent:

24 (1) is an individual who:

25 (A) has been convicted of a felony, criminal  
26 fraud, gambling or a gambling-related offense, or a misdemeanor  
27 involving moral turpitude, if less than 10 years has elapsed since

1 the termination of the sentence, parole, mandatory supervision, or  
2 probation served for the offense;

3 (B) is or has been a professional gambler;

4 (C) is married to an individual:

5 (i) described in Paragraph (A) or (B); or

6 (ii) who is currently delinquent in the  
7 payment of any state tax;

8 (D) is an officer or employee of the commission  
9 or a lottery operator; or

10 (E) is a spouse, child, brother, sister, or  
11 parent residing as a member of the same household in the principal  
12 place of residence of a person described by Paragraph (D);

13 (2) is not an individual, and an individual described  
14 in Subdivision (1):

15 (A) is an officer or director of the applicant or  
16 sales agent;

17 (B) holds more than 10 percent of the stock in the  
18 applicant or sales agent;

19 (C) holds an equitable interest greater than 10  
20 percent in the applicant or sales agent;

21 (D) is a creditor of the applicant or sales agent  
22 who holds more than 10 percent of the applicant's or sales agent's  
23 outstanding debt;

24 (E) is the owner or lessee of a business that the  
25 applicant or sales agent conducts or through which the applicant  
26 will conduct a ticket sales agency;

27 (F) shares or will share in the profits, other

1 than stock dividends, of the applicant or sales agent; or

2 (G) participates in managing the affairs of the  
3 applicant or sales agent;

4 (3) has been finally determined to be~~+~~

5 [~~(A)~~] delinquent in the payment of a tax or other  
6 money collected by the comptroller, the Texas Workforce Commission,  
7 or the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission;

8 [~~(B) in default on a loan made under Chapter 52,~~  
9 ~~Education Code; or~~

10 [~~(C) in default on a loan guaranteed under~~  
11 ~~Chapter 57, Education Code;~~]

12 (4) is a person whose location for the sales agency is:

13 (A) a location licensed for games of bingo under  
14 Chapter 2001, Occupations Code;

15 (B) on land that is owned by:

16 (i) this state; or

17 (ii) a political subdivision of this state  
18 and on which is located a public primary or secondary school, an  
19 institution of higher education, or an agency of the state; or

20 (C) a location for which a person holds a wine and  
21 beer retailer's permit, mixed beverage permit, mixed beverage late  
22 hours permit, private club registration permit, or private club  
23 late hours permit issued under Chapter 25, 28, 29, 32, or 33,  
24 Alcoholic Beverage Code, other than a location for which a person  
25 holds a wine and beer retailer's permit issued under Chapter 25,  
26 Alcoholic Beverage Code, that derives less than 30 percent of the  
27 location's gross receipts from the sale or service of alcoholic

1 beverages; or

2 (5) has violated this chapter or a rule adopted under  
3 this chapter.

4 (g) For purposes of Subsection (a)(3), the comptroller,  
5 Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Alcoholic Beverage  
6 Commission~~[, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Texas~~  
7 ~~Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation]~~ shall each provide the  
8 executive director with a report of persons who have been finally  
9 determined to be delinquent in the payment of any money owed to or  
10 collected by that agency. The commission shall adopt rules  
11 regarding the form and frequency of reports under this subsection.

12 SECTION 7. The following laws are repealed:

- 13 (1) Section 57.491, Education Code;  
14 (2) Section 82.022(c), Government Code;  
15 (3) Section 154.110(e), Government Code; and  
16 (4) Sections 56.001(1), 56.002, 56.004, 56.005, and  
17 56.006, Occupations Code.

18 SECTION 8. A disciplinary action proceeding under Chapter  
19 56, Occupations Code, that was initiated before the effective date  
20 of this Act and that is pending on the effective date of this Act is  
21 terminated on that date.

22 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.