

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 279

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to completion and submission of a financial aid application for costs of higher education as a condition of high school graduation for public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.025(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A person may receive a diploma if the person is eligible for a diploma under Section 28.0251. In other cases, a student may graduate and receive a diploma only if:

(1) the student successfully completes the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education under Subsection (a) and complies with Sections 28.0256 and [Section] 39.025; or

(2) the student successfully completes an individualized education program developed under Section 29.005.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0256 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0256. FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION. (a) Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or, if applicable, a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).

(b) A student is not required to comply with Subsection (a)

1 if:

2 (1) the student's parent or other person standing in
3 parental relation submits a signed form indicating that the parent
4 or other person authorizes the student to decline to complete and
5 submit the financial aid application; or

6 (2) the student signs and submits the form described
7 by Subdivision (1) on the student's own behalf if the student is 18
8 years of age or older or the student's disabilities of minority have
9 been removed for general purposes under Chapter 31, Family Code.

10 (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
11 shall adopt a form to be used for purposes of Subsection (b).

12 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with students
13 enrolled at the 12th grade level during the 2020-2021 school year.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.