By:  Buckingham S.B. No. 1677

(In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2021; March 24, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education; April 19, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton       X

West            X

Birdwell        X

Blanco          X

Miles           X

Paxton          X

Springer        X

Taylor          X

Zaffirini       X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1677 By:  Paxton

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eliminating certain reporting and posting requirements for public institutions of higher education and other state agencies and the requirement for a plan by certain school districts to increase enrollment in public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 51.402(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  The governing board of each institution of higher education in the state shall adopt rules and regulations concerning faculty academic workloads. In adopting rules under this subsection, each institution shall recognize that classroom teaching, basic and applied research, and professional development are important elements of faculty academic workloads by giving appropriate weight to each activity when determining the standards for faculty academic workload. An institution may give the same or different weight to each activity and to other activities recognized by the institution as important elements of faculty academic workloads. [~~The established rules and regulations of each institution shall be included in the operating budgets of each institution.~~]

SECTION 2.  Subchapter B, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0341 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0341.  LIMITATION ON DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) The legislature finds that data collection and reporting requirements for institutions of higher education must be limited and reduced to the extent feasible.

(b)  If the commissioner of higher education determines that the board has access to an alternative means of collecting data or receiving information to be included in a report sufficient to fulfill a requirement under this code, the board by rule may eliminate the reporting requirement for that data or information.

SECTION 3.  Section 659.0201(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  A state agency that accepts a gift, grant, donation, or other consideration from a person that the person designates to be used as a salary supplement for an employee of the agency shall post on the agency's Internet website[~~, in addition to the information required by Section 659.026,~~] the amount of each gift, grant, donation, or other consideration provided by the person that is designated to be used as a salary supplement for an employee of the agency. The agency may not post the name of the person.

SECTION 4.  The following provisions are repealed:

(1)  Sections 29.904 and 51.4031, Education Code; and

(2)  Section 659.026, Government Code.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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