By:  Springer S.B. No. 1825

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the approval of certain private or independent institutions of higher education to participate in the tuition equalization grant program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 61.222, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e)  Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the coordinating board may not approve an institution under this section unless, for the preceding academic year:

(1)  provided there is another eligible institution in the county and if:

(i)  the institution's average graduation rate for students graduating within six years of their initial enrollment at the institution is equal to or greater than the average six-year graduation rate of institutions of higher education and private or independent institutions of higher education as determined by the coordinating board; or

(ii)  the average amount of student loan debt at graduation from an undergraduate program at the institution is equal to or less than the average amount of student loan debt at graduation from undergraduate programs at institutions of higher education and private or independent institutions of higher education as determined by the coordinating board.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.