

By: Raney

H.B. No. 4361

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to off-campus workforce education or lower-division  
3 programs offered by a public institution of higher education at the  
4 request of an employer.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 51.981 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.981. OFF-CAMPUS WORKFORCE EDUCATION OR  
9 LOWER-DIVISION PROGRAMS REQUESTED BY EMPLOYERS. An institution of  
10 higher education may enter into an agreement with an employer to  
11 provide a credit or noncredit off-campus workforce education or  
12 lower-division program to the institution's students at a site  
13 requested by the employer without the approval of a higher  
14 education regional council established under Subchapter N,  
15 regardless of whether the site at which the program would be offered  
16 is located within the institution's uniform state service region  
17 or, if the institution is a public junior college, within the junior  
18 college district's service area, if:

19 (1) the employer has solicited an agreement to offer  
20 the program at that site with another institution of higher  
21 education that offers the same or substantially equivalent  
22 coursework as that requested by the employer;

23 (2) the proposed site for the off-campus program is  
24 located within the uniform state service region in which the

1 institution described by Subdivision (1) is located or, if the  
2 institution is a public junior college, within the junior college  
3 district's service area; and

4 (3) the institution of higher education described by  
5 Subdivision (1) does not finalize an offer to enter into an  
6 agreement with the employer that meets the employer's  
7 specifications for the off-campus program within six weeks after  
8 the employer's initial written solicitation requesting the  
9 institution to offer the program.

10 SECTION 2. Section 51.981, Education Code, as added by this  
11 Act, applies beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.