

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 54
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 9, 2020; March 3, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
 1-4 May 21, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 21, 2021,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 54 By: West

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education
 1-22 Coordinating Board regarding best practices for assisting students
 1-23 with autism spectrum disorder.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 1-26 amended by adding Section 61.06694 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 61.06694. STUDY AND REPORT ON ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH
 1-28 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. (a) The board shall conduct a study to
 1-29 determine best practices for assisting students with autism
 1-30 spectrum disorder who are enrolled at institutions of higher
 1-31 education.

1-32 (b) The study must:

1-33 (1) identify and track:

1-34 (A) the number of students with autism spectrum
 1-35 disorder who graduate from secondary schools in this state;

1-36 (B) the number of students with autism spectrum
 1-37 disorder who are enrolled at institutions of higher education;

1-38 (C) the student financial assistance available
 1-39 to students with autism spectrum disorder who enroll at
 1-40 institutions of higher education; and

1-41 (D) the graduation rates of students with autism
 1-42 spectrum disorder who enroll at institutions of higher education;
 1-43 and

1-44 (2) identify and examine best practices and program
 1-45 modules from public and private institutions of higher education
 1-46 outside this state that have achieved successful results in working
 1-47 with students with autism spectrum disorder.

1-48 (c) In conducting the study, the board:

1-49 (1) shall collaborate with the Texas Education Agency
 1-50 regarding specialized programs offered by elementary or secondary
 1-51 schools for students with autism spectrum disorder to determine how
 1-52 those programs could be replicated at or extended to postsecondary
 1-53 institutions; and

1-54 (2) may not request, require, or use personally
 1-55 identifiable student information.

1-56 (d) Not later than December 1, 2023, the board shall submit
 1-57 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house
 1-58 of representatives, and the commissioner of education a written
 1-59 report that includes the study's findings and any recommendations
 1-60 for legislative or other action.

2-1 (e) This section expires January 1, 2024.
2-2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-6 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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