

1-1 By: Blanco S.B. No. 165
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 10, 2020; March 3, 2021,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 6, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,
1-5 Nays 0; April 6, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Creighton	X		
1-9	West	X		
1-10	Birdwell	X		
1-11	Blanco	X		
1-12	Miles	X		
1-13	Paxton	X		
1-14	Springer	X		
1-15	Taylor	X		
1-16	Zaffirini	X		

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to an exception to dropped course limitations at public
1-20 institutions of higher education for courses dropped during a
1-21 disaster that results in a bar or limit on in-person course
1-22 attendance.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 51.907, Education Code, is amended by
1-25 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (e-2) to read as
1-26 follows:

1-27 (e) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
1-28 adopt rules under which an institution of higher education shall
1-29 permit a student to drop more courses under circumstances described
1-30 by Subsection (b) than the number of courses permitted to be dropped
1-31 under Subsection (c) or under a policy adopted under Subsection (d)
1-32 if ~~[the student shows]~~ good cause exists for dropping more than that
1-33 number, including:

1-34 (1) the student's [a] showing of:

1-35 (A) ~~[(1)]~~ a severe illness or other debilitating
1-36 condition that affects the student's ability to satisfactorily
1-37 complete a course;

1-38 (B) ~~[(2)]~~ the student's responsibility for the
1-39 care of a sick, injured, or needy person if the provision of care
1-40 affects the student's ability to satisfactorily complete a course;

1-41 (C) ~~[(3)]~~ the death of a person who:

1-42 (i) ~~[(A)]~~ is considered to be a member of
1-43 the student's family under a rule adopted under this subsection for
1-44 purposes of this paragraph [subdivision]; or

1-45 (ii) ~~[(B)]~~ is otherwise considered to have a
1-46 sufficiently close relationship to the student under a rule adopted
1-47 under this subsection that the person's death is considered to be a
1-48 showing of good cause; or

1-49 (D) ~~[(4)]~~ the active duty service as a member of
1-50 the Texas National Guard or the armed forces of the United States
1-51 of:

1-52 (i) ~~[(A)]~~ the student; or

1-53 (ii) ~~[(B)]~~ a person who is considered to be a
1-54 member of the student's family under a rule adopted under this
1-55 subsection for purposes of this paragraph; or

1-56 (2) a disaster declared by the governor under Section
1-57 418.014, Government Code, resulting in a bar or limit on in-person
1-58 course attendance at the institution [subdivision].

1-59 (e-2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,
1-60 an institution of higher education may not count toward the number
1-61 of courses permitted to be dropped under Subsection (c) or a policy

2-1 adopted under Subsection (d) a course dropped by a student during
2-2 the 2020 spring semester or summer term or the 2020-2021 academic
2-3 year because of a bar or limit on in-person course attendance at the
2-4 institution during the applicable semester or term due to the
2-5 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

2-6 SECTION 2. Section 51.907(e), Education Code, as amended by
2-7 this Act, applies beginning with the 2021 fall semester.

2-8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-12 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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