

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 369

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the notice required regarding the requirement to submit a financial aid application as a condition of high school graduation for public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.0256(a), (c), and (d), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA), except as otherwise provided by Subsection (b).

(c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a form to be used for purposes of Subsection (b). The form must ~~be~~:

(1) be approved by the agency; ~~and~~

(2) provide the student or the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation, as applicable, the opportunity to decline to complete and submit a financial aid application, as provided by Subsection (b); and

(3) be made available in English, Spanish, and any other language spoken by a majority of the students enrolled in a bilingual education or special language program under Subchapter B, Chapter 29, in the district or school.

(d) If a school counselor notifies a school district whether

1 a student has complied with this section for purposes of
2 determining whether the student meets high school graduation
3 requirements under Section 28.025, the school counselor may only
4 indicate whether the student has complied with this section and may
5 not indicate the manner in which the student complied. A school
6 counselor may not indicate that a student has not complied with this
7 section if the school district or open-enrollment charter school
8 fails to provide the form adopted under Subsection (c) to the
9 student or the student's parent or other person standing in
10 parental relation to the student.

11 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
12 school year.

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