

By: Kolchorst
(Parker)

S.B. No. 810

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the course information required to be posted on a public institution of higher education's Internet website.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.974, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (f), and (g) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

(a) Each institution of higher education, other than a medical and dental unit, as defined by Section 61.003, shall make available to the public on the institution's Internet website the following information for each ~~undergraduate~~ classroom course offered for credit by the institution:

(1) a syllabus that:

(A) satisfies any standards adopted by the institution;

(B) provides a brief description of each major course requirement, including each major assignment and examination;

(C) lists any required or recommended reading;
and

(D) provides a general description of the subject matter of each lecture or discussion;

(2) a curriculum vitae of each regular instructor that lists the instructor's:

1 (A) postsecondary education;

2 (B) teaching experience; and

3 (C) significant professional publications; and

4 (3) if available, a departmental budget report of the
5 department under which the course is offered, from the most recent
6 semester or other academic term during which the institution
7 offered the course.

8 (b) The information required by Subsection (a) must be:

9 (1) accessible from the institution's Internet website
10 home page [~~by use of not more than three links~~];

11 (2) clearly labeled as "public course and syllabus
12 information";

13 (3) searchable by keywords and phrases; and

14 (4) [~~(3)~~] accessible to the public without requiring
15 registration or use of a user name, a password, or another user
16 identification.

17 (f) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, each
18 institution of higher education shall submit a written report
19 regarding the institution's compliance with this section to the
20 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
21 representatives, [~~and~~] the presiding officer of each legislative
22 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
23 education, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

24 (f-1) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
25 monitor each institution of higher education to determine whether
26 the institution is in substantial compliance with this section and
27 make available to the public on the coordinating board's Internet

1 website:

2 (1) a list indicating whether each institution of
3 higher education is in substantial compliance with this section;
4 and

5 (2) a copy of each report submitted to the
6 coordinating board under Subsection (f).

7 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
8 rules necessary to administer this section, including rules to
9 ensure substantial compliance with this section.

10 SECTION 2. Section 51.974, Education Code, as amended by
11 this Act, applies beginning with the 2022 spring semester.

12 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is
13 required to implement Section 51.974(f-1), Education Code, as added
14 by this Act, only if the legislature appropriates money
15 specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not
16 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the coordinating
17 board may, but is not required to, implement that subsection using
18 other appropriations available for that purpose.

19 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.