

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 810

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.974, Education Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsections (a), (b), and (f) and adding Subsections (f-1)  
7 and (f-2) to read as follows:

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

13 (1) a syllabus that:

14 (A) satisfies any standards adopted by the  
15 institution;

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

19 (C) lists any required or recommended reading;  
20 and

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

23 (2) a curriculum vitae of each regular instructor that  
24 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's compliance with this  
26 section and make available to the public on the coordinating  
27 board's Internet website:

1           (1) a list indicating each institution of higher  
2 education's compliance or noncompliance with this section; and

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

5           (f-2) Not later than July 1 of each year, the Texas Higher  
6 Education Coordinating Board shall notify the comptroller of each  
7 institution of higher education that fails to comply with the  
8 requirements under Subsection (a) or (b). For each institution for  
9 which that notice is received, the comptroller shall, for each  
10 state fiscal year beginning after receipt, withhold one percent of  
11 the total amount of general revenue funds appropriated directly to  
12 the institution for that fiscal year until the coordinating board  
13 notifies the comptroller that the institution is in compliance with  
14 the requirements under Subsections (a) and (b).

15           SECTION 2. Section [51.974](#), Education Code, as amended by  
16 this Act, applies beginning with the 2022 spring semester.

17           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.