

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 1531
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2021; March 24, 2021, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 8, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,
1-5 Nays 0; April 8, 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 formula funding for excess undergraduate credit hours
1-20 at public institutions of higher education and to the tuition rate
1-21 that may be charged for those credit hours.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 54.014, Education Code, is amended by
1-24 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to
1-25 read as follows:

1-26 (a) An institution of higher education may charge a resident
1-27 undergraduate student tuition at a higher rate than the rate
1-28 charged to other resident undergraduate students, not to exceed the
1-29 rate charged to nonresident undergraduate students, if before the
1-30 semester or other academic session begins the student has
1-31 previously attempted a number of semester credit hours for courses
1-32 taken at any institution of higher education while classified as a
1-33 resident student for tuition purposes that exceeds [~~by at least 30~~
1-34 ~~hours~~] the number of semester credit hours required for completion
1-35 of the degree program in which the student is enrolled by at least:

1-36 (1) for an associate degree program, 15 hours; or

1-37 (2) for a baccalaureate degree program, 30 hours.

1-38 (a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a) [~~this subsection~~], an
1-39 undergraduate student who is not enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program [~~or~~
1-40 ~~programs requiring a minimum of 120 semester credit hours,~~
1-41 ~~including minors and double majors, and for completion of any~~
1-42 ~~certificate or other special program in which the student is also~~
1-43 ~~enrolled, including a program with a study-abroad component].~~

1-44 (a-2) An institution of higher education that charges
1-45 students tuition at a higher rate under Subsection (a) [~~this~~
1-46 ~~subsection~~] may adopt a policy under which the institution exempts
1-47 from the payment of that higher rate a student that is subject to
1-48 the payment of the higher rate solely as a result of hardship as
1-49 determined by the institution under the policy.

1-50 SECTION 2. Sections 61.0595(a) and (b), Education Code, are
1-51 amended to read as follows:

1-52 (a) In the formulas established under Section 61.059, the
1-53 board may not include funding for semester credit hours earned by a
1-54 resident undergraduate student who before the semester or other
1-55 academic session begins has previously attempted a number of
1-56 semester credit hours for courses taken at any institution of
1-57 higher education while classified as a resident student for tuition
1-58 purposes that exceeds [~~by at least 30 hours~~] the number of semester
1-59 credit hours required for completion of the degree program or
1-60 programs in which the student is enrolled, including minors and

2-1 double majors, and for completion of any certificate or other
2-2 special program in which the student is also enrolled, including a
2-3 program with a study-abroad component, by at least:

2-4 (1) for an associate degree program, 15 hours; or

2-5 (2) for a baccalaureate degree program, 30 hours.

2-6 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a), an undergraduate
2-7 student who is not enrolled in a degree program is considered to be
2-8 enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program [~~requiring a minimum of~~
2-9 ~~120 semester credit hours~~].

2-10 SECTION 3. Section [54.014](#), Education Code, as amended by
2-11 this Act, applies beginning with tuition charged for the 2023 fall
2-12 semester.

2-13 SECTION 4. Section [61.0595](#), Education Code, as amended by
2-14 this Act, applies beginning with funding recommendations made under
2-15 Section [61.059](#), Education Code, for the state fiscal biennium
2-16 beginning September 1, 2023.

2-17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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