

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 25

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the period for which an applicant for admission as an
3 undergraduate student to a public institution of higher education
4 is entitled to an academic fresh start.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 51.931, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) to read as follows:

8 (c-1) In considering an applicant for admission under this
9 section, a public institution of higher education may choose to
10 disregard academic course credits or grades earned by the applicant
11 more recently than 10 years before the starting date of the semester
12 in which the applicant seeks to enroll, except the institution may
13 not disregard any credits or grades earned during the five-year
14 period preceding that date. An institution that chooses to
15 disregard course credits or grades earned during the additional
16 period permitted by this subsection must disregard all course
17 credits or grades earned during that period and may not award any
18 credit for those courses.

19 (c-2) Each public institution of higher education shall
20 adopt, post on the institution's Internet website, and submit to
21 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a policy regarding
22 the admissions made by the institution under this section,
23 including the period for which an applicant's course credits or
24 grades will be considered by the institution under the policy.

1 SECTION 2. Section 61.0595(c), Education Code, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 (c) For a student enrolled in a baccalaureate program under
4 Section 51.931, semester credit hours that were earned by the
5 student [~~10 or more years~~] before the date the student began
6 [~~begins~~] the new degree program under Section 51.931 and that were
7 disregarded under institution policy as described by that section
8 are not counted for purposes of determining whether the student has
9 previously earned the number of semester credit hours specified by
10 Subsection (a).

11 SECTION 3. Section 51.931, Education Code, as amended by
12 this Act, applies beginning with admissions to a public institution
13 of higher education for the 2024 fall semester.

14 SECTION 4. Section 61.0595(c), Education Code, as amended
15 by this Act, applies beginning with funding recommendations made
16 under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the state fiscal biennium
17 beginning September 1, 2025, for semester credit hours earned by
18 students enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program at a public
19 institution of higher education under Section 51.931, Education
20 Code, as amended by this Act, for the 2024 fall semester or a
21 subsequent semester or term. Funding recommendations for semester
22 credit hours earned by a student who enrolled in a baccalaureate
23 degree program at a public institution of higher education under
24 Section 51.931, Education Code, as amended by this Act, before the
25 2024 fall semester are governed by the law in effect immediately
26 before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is
27 continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
6 legislative session.