88R13776 MM-D

By:  Lalani H.B. No. 3631

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a requirement that public institutions of higher education provide certain information regarding mental health services to entering students.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 51.9194, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9194.  REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR ENTERING STUDENTS REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b)  An institution of higher education [~~A general academic teaching institution~~] shall provide to each entering [~~full-time~~] undergraduate, graduate, or professional student, including each [~~full-time~~] undergraduate, graduate, or professional student who transfers to the institution, information about:

(1)  available mental health and suicide prevention services offered by the institution or by any associated organizations or programs; and

(2)  early warning signs that are often present in and appropriate intervention for a person who may be considering suicide.

(c) [~~(b)~~]  The information required under this section:

(1)  may be provided through:

(A)  a live presentation; or

(B)  a format that allows for student interaction, such as an online program or video; [~~and~~]

(2)  may not be provided in a paper format only; and

(3)  must include a campus map identifying any location at which mental health services are provided to students on campus.

(d)  If an institution of higher education provides an on-campus orientation for entering students, the orientation must include a tour of any location described by Subsection (c)(3).

SECTION 2.  Section 51.9194, Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies beginning with entering students at public institutions of higher education for the 2023 fall semester.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.