

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 1509

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an annual report on financial support provided by public institutions of higher education to nonprofit media organizations.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.980 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.980. ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO NONPROFIT MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(3) "Nonprofit media organization" means a media organization that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt organization in Section 501(c)(3) of that code.

(b) Not later than September 1 of each year, an institution of higher education shall submit to the coordinating board a report on financial support, including through the purchase of a membership, sponsorship, or advertising services, that the institution provided to a nonprofit media organization during the preceding state fiscal year.

(c) A report submitted under Subsection (b) must include a

1 list of all nonprofit media organizations that received financial
2 support from the institution of higher education and the amount of
3 financial support provided to each organization.

4 (d) Not later than January 1 of each year, the coordinating
5 board shall submit to the legislature a report on financial support
6 provided to nonprofit media organizations by institutions of higher
7 education during the preceding state fiscal year. The report must
8 include a copy of each report submitted to the coordinating board
9 under Subsection (b) for the preceding state fiscal year.

10 (e) The coordinating board may adopt rules as necessary to
11 implement this section.

12 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than September 1, 2023, each
13 public institution of higher education shall submit its initial
14 report required under Section 51.980(b), Education Code, as added
15 by this Act.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Texas Higher
17 Education Coordinating Board shall submit its initial report
18 required under Section 51.980(d), Education Code, as added by this
19 Act.

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