

By: Paul, Tepper

H.B. No. 2920

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the distribution or posting of, and the development by
3 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of electronic tools
4 or platforms to provide, information regarding postsecondary
5 education and career opportunities.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 7.040(a), Education Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) The agency shall prepare information comparing
10 institutions of higher education in this state and post the
11 information on the agency's Internet website. Information prepared
12 under this section shall be given to any ~~a~~ public or private
13 school student who requests the information. The information
14 shall:

15 (1) identify postsecondary education and career
16 opportunities, including information that states the benefits of
17 four-year and two-year higher education programs, postsecondary
18 technical education, skilled workforce careers, and career
19 education programs;

20 (2) assist prospective postsecondary students in
21 assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or
22 baccalaureate degree program, or other credential program offered
23 by an institution of higher education by comparing ~~compare~~ each
24 institution ~~[of higher education]~~ with other institutions using

1 information included in the electronic tools or platforms developed
2 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section
3 61.09022(a) ~~[regarding:~~

4 ~~[(A) the relative cost of tuition,~~

5 ~~[(B) the retention rate of students,~~

6 ~~[(C) the graduation rate of students,~~

7 ~~[(D) the average student debt,~~

8 ~~[(E) the loan repayment rate of students; and~~

9 ~~[(F) the employment rate of students];~~

10 (3) identify the state's future workforce needs, as
11 projected by the Texas Workforce Commission; and

12 (4) include annual wage information for the top 10
13 highest demand jobs in this state, as identified by the Texas
14 Workforce Commission.

15 SECTION 2. Section 51.762(b-1), Education Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (b-1) An electronic common admission application form
18 adopted under this section must include a prominent link to the
19 electronic tools or platforms developed by the board under Section
20 61.09022 ~~[comparative gainful employment data regarding~~
21 ~~institutions of higher education, including information described~~
22 ~~by Section 7.040, on a website maintained by the board using data~~
23 ~~compiled by the board in coordination with the Texas Workforce~~
24 ~~Commission].~~

25 SECTION 3. Section 51.763(b), Education Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (b) The form must:

1 (1) allow each applicant to:

2 (A) apply electronically to one or more of the
3 general academic teaching institutions within the university
4 system; and

5 (B) indicate preferences for admission between
6 those institutions; and

7 (2) include a prominent link to the electronic tools
8 or platforms developed by the board under Section 61.09022
9 ~~[comparative gainful employment data regarding institutions of~~
10 ~~higher education, including information described by Section~~
11 ~~7.040, on a website maintained by the board using data compiled by~~
12 ~~the board in coordination with the Texas Workforce Commission].~~

13 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 61.09022 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 61.09022. INFORMATION TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN ASSESSING
16 VALUE OF POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS. (a) From money appropriated or
17 otherwise available for the purpose, the board shall develop one or
18 more electronic tools or platforms to provide information to assist
19 prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of a
20 certificate program, associate or baccalaureate degree program, or
21 other credential program offered by an institution of higher
22 education or private or independent institution of higher education
23 by comparing each institution with other institutions regarding:

24 (1) the relative cost of obtaining the certificate,
25 degree, or other credential, based on the most recent data released
26 through the United States Department of Education's College
27 Scorecard online tool or a successor tool, including:

- 1 (A) the total cost of attendance, including:
2 (i) the total cost of tuition and fees; and
3 (ii) the median cost of room and board; and
4 (B) the estimated net cost remaining after
5 subtracting from the amount described by Paragraph (A) the average
6 amount of student financial aid granted to the typical student for
7 the program;
8 (2) the value of the certificate, degree, or other
9 credential as measured by comparing:
10 (A) the median wage earned by students who
11 graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential from
12 the institution; and
13 (B) the median student debt of students who
14 graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential from
15 the institution as compared to the median student debt of all
16 students who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other
17 credential, based on the most recent data released through the
18 United States Department of Education's College Scorecard online
19 tool or a successor tool;
20 (3) the average student debt-to-income ratio of
21 students who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other
22 credential from the institution and have student debt, including
23 the estimated monthly student loan payment, computed using the
24 standard 10-year repayment plan;
25 (4) the percentage of students who fully repay student
26 debt within the standard 10-year repayment period or, if this
27 information is not available for the program, the percentage of

1 students in all certificate programs, degree programs, or other
2 credential programs who fully repay student debt within the
3 standard 10-year repayment period; and

4 (5) educational outcomes for students seeking the
5 certificate, degree, or other credential, including:

6 (A) for a program designed to be completed in
7 more than one year, the percentage of students who continue in the
8 program after the first year of study;

9 (B) the graduation rate;

10 (C) the percentage of students who withdraw or
11 transfer from the institution and subsequently graduate with the
12 certificate, degree, or other credential from another institution
13 of higher education or private or independent institution of higher
14 education;

15 (D) the percentage of students who withdraw from
16 the institution and do not enroll in the program at another
17 institution of higher education or private or independent
18 institution of higher education within three years of the
19 withdrawal; and

20 (E) the percentage of graduates employed in a
21 field related to the certificate program, degree program, or other
22 credential program within one year of graduation.

23 (c) The board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
24 donations from any public or private source to implement this
25 section.

26 (d) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
27 this section, including rules to ensure compliance with federal and

1 state law regarding the confidentiality of student information.

2 SECTION 5. Section 7.040(c), Education Code, is transferred
3 to Section 61.09022, Education Code, as added by this Act,
4 redesignated as Section 61.09022(b), Education Code, and amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (b) [~~(c)~~] Each institution of higher education shall
7 include on its Internet website, in a prominent location that is not
8 more than three hyperlinks from the website's home page, a link to
9 the electronic tools or platforms developed by the board
10 [~~information posted on the agency's Internet website~~] under
11 Subsection (a).

12 SECTION 6. Section 2308A.007, Government Code, is amended
13 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

14 (a-1) A credential library established under this section
15 must include the information included in the electronic tools or
16 platforms developed by the coordinating board under Section
17 61.09022(a), Education Code.

18 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.