

By: Eckhardt, et al.

S.B. No. 200

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
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 2023 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 2023 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 2023 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 September 1, 2023.