

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 2135

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the course information required to be posted on a public
3 institution of higher education's Internet website; providing an
4 administrative penalty.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 51.974, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (a), (b), (f), and (g) and adding Subsections
8 (f-1) and (f-2) to read as follows:

9 (a) Each institution of higher education, other than a
10 medical and dental unit, as defined by Section 61.003, shall make
11 available to the public on the institution's Internet website the
12 following information for each [~~undergraduate~~] classroom course
13 offered for credit by the institution:

14 (1) a syllabus that:

15 (A) satisfies any standards adopted by the
16 institution;

17 (B) provides a brief description of each major
18 course requirement, including each major assignment and
19 examination;

20 (C) lists any required or recommended reading;

21 and

22 (D) provides a general description of the subject
23 matter of each lecture or discussion;

24 (2) a curriculum vitae of each regular instructor that

1 lists the instructor's:

2 (A) postsecondary education;

3 (B) teaching experience; and

4 (C) significant professional publications; and

5 (3) if available, a departmental budget report of the
6 department under which the course is offered, from the most recent
7 semester or other academic term during which the institution
8 offered the course.

9 (b) The information required by Subsection (a) must be:

10 (1) accessible from the institution's Internet website
11 home page [~~by use of not more than three links~~];

12 (2) clearly labeled as "public course and syllabus
13 information";

14 (3) searchable by keywords and phrases; and

15 (4) [~~(3)~~] accessible to the public without requiring
16 registration or use of a user name, a password, or another user
17 identification.

18 (f) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, each
19 institution of higher education shall submit a written report
20 regarding the institution's compliance with this section to the
21 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
22 representatives, [~~and~~] the presiding officer of each legislative
23 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
24 education, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

25 (f-1) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
26 monitor each institution of higher education to determine whether
27 the institution is in substantial compliance with this section and

1 make available to the public on the coordinating board's Internet
2 website:

3 (1) a list indicating whether each institution of
4 higher education is in substantial compliance with this section;
5 and

6 (2) a copy of each report submitted to the
7 coordinating board under Subsection (f).

8 (f-2) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
9 assess an administrative penalty of \$5,000 against an institution
10 of higher education that violates Subsections (a) or (b). Each day
11 the violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for
12 purposes of assessing a penalty.

13 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
14 rules necessary to administer this section, including rules to:

15 (1) ensure substantial compliance with this section;
16 and

17 (2) assess administrative penalties under Subsection
18 (f-2).

19 SECTION 2. Section [51.974](#), Education Code, as amended by
20 this Act, applies beginning with the 2024 spring semester.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.