

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 3204

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the Polytechnic College at Sam Houston State  
3 University, including the college's eligibility to participate in  
4 certain programs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 96.63, Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 96.63. POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE [~~JOSEY SCHOOL OF VOCATIONAL~~  
9 ~~EDUCATION~~]. (a) The Polytechnic College [~~Josey School of~~  
10 ~~Vocational Education~~] is a division of Sam Houston State University  
11 and is under the direction and control of the Board of Regents,  
12 State Senior Colleges.

13 (b) The administration of the college [~~school~~] is under the  
14 direction of the president of Sam Houston State University.

15 (c) The college [~~school~~] shall provide workforce  
16 [~~vocational~~] training for individuals over the age of 18 who cannot  
17 qualify scholastically for college entrance and for other persons  
18 who desire to avail themselves of short intensive courses in  
19 workforce training [~~vocational education in the following~~  
20 ~~fields: agriculture, home management, distributive education,~~  
21 ~~photography, plumbing, sheet metal work, machine shop, auto~~  
22 ~~mechanics, furniture, electrical appliances, air conditioning and~~  
23 ~~refrigeration, printing, radio, garment making, interior~~  
24 ~~decorating, light construction contracting, photoengraving,~~

1 ~~watchmaking, and other trades of like nature]. The training [in~~  
2 ~~these subjects] shall be designed to lead to an occupational skills~~  
3 ~~award, a level one certificate, or a level two certificate, as~~  
4 ~~defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board [organized~~  
5 ~~so that the courses may be completed in from 9 to 24 months. Courses~~  
6 ~~may also be offered in English and mathematics and other subjects~~  
7 ~~which will contribute to the vocational training of the student.~~  
8 ~~Vocational courses in government, designed to prepare workers in~~  
9 ~~various county, city, and state offices, may also be offered].~~

10 (d) In making funding recommendations for the college under  
11 Section 61.059, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
12 recommend that the college be funded in the same manner as a public  
13 state college, as defined by Section 61.003 [~~The rate of tuition~~  
14 ~~charged students shall be the actual cost of teaching service, not~~  
15 ~~to exceed \$500 per scholastic year of nine months. Scholarships may~~  
16 ~~be awarded by the board to worthy indigent students who might~~  
17 ~~greatly benefit from the training offered. The amount of the~~  
18 ~~scholarships may vary according to the needs of the individuals,~~  
19 ~~but in no case may it reduce the tuition payment by the student to a~~  
20 ~~point less than the tuition fee regularly charged students at the~~  
21 ~~state senior colleges].~~

22 SECTION 2. Section 56.401(2), Education Code, is amended to  
23 read as follows:

- 24 (2) "Eligible institution" means:
- 25 (A) a public junior college;
  - 26 (B) a public technical institute; ~~[or]~~
  - 27 (C) a public state college; or

1                    (D) the Polytechnic College at Sam Houston State  
2 University.

3            SECTION 3. Section 61.09092(a), Education Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5            (a) In this section, "lower-division institution of higher  
6 education" means a public junior college, public state college, or  
7 public technical institute and the Polytechnic College at Sam  
8 Houston State University.

9            SECTION 4. Section 61.881(2), Education Code, is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11            (2) "Lower-division institution of higher education"  
12 means a public junior college, public state college, or public  
13 technical institute and the Polytechnic College at Sam Houston  
14 State University.

15            SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
16 56.401(2), Education Code, applies beginning with grants awarded  
17 under the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program for the 2026  
18 fall semester. Grants awarded under the Texas Educational  
19 Opportunity Grant Program for an academic term before that semester  
20 are governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective  
21 date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
22 purpose.

23            SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
24 61.881(2), Education Code, applies beginning with grants awarded  
25 under the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE)  
26 Program for the 2025 fall semester.

27            SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.