

1-1 By: Creighton, Hagenbuch S.B. No. 37
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2025; March 17, 2025, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16;
 1-4 April 8, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 1; April 8, 2025,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-8 Creighton | X | | | |
| 1-9 Campbell | X | | | |
| 1-10 Bettencourt | X | | | |
| 1-11 Hagenbuch | X | | | |
| 1-12 Hinojosa of Nueces | X | | | |
| 1-13 King | X | | | |
| 1-14 Menéndez | | X | | |
| 1-15 Middleton | X | | | |
| 1-16 Parker | X | | | |
| 1-17 Paxton | X | | | |
| 1-18 West | | | X | |

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 37 By: Paxton

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to the governance of public institutions of higher
 1-24 education, including review of curriculum and certain degree and
 1-25 certificate programs, a faculty council or senate, training for
 1-26 members of the governing board, and the establishment of the Texas
 1-27 Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman;
 1-28 authorizing a civil penalty.

1-29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-30 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
 1-31 amended by adding Sections 51.315 and 51.316 to read as follows:

1-32 Sec. 51.315. GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM REVIEW. (a) In
 1-33 this section:

1-34 (1) "General education curriculum" means a core
 1-35 curriculum, as that term is defined by Section 61.821, and any other
 1-36 curriculum or competency all undergraduate students of an
 1-37 institution of higher education are required to complete before
 1-38 receiving an undergraduate degree.

1-39 (2) "Governing board" and "institution of higher
 1-40 education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

1-41 (b) The governing board of each institution of higher
 1-42 education shall conduct a comprehensive review of the general
 1-43 education curriculum and other graduation requirements established
 1-44 by the institution at least once every five years. In reviewing an
 1-45 institution's core curriculum, the governing board shall ensure
 1-46 courses in the curriculum:

1-47 (1) are foundational and fundamental to a sound
 1-48 postsecondary education;

1-49 (2) are necessary to prepare students for civic and
 1-50 professional life;

1-51 (3) equip students for participation in the workforce
 1-52 and in the betterment of society;

1-53 (4) ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with
 1-54 applicable accreditation standards; and

1-55 (5) do not distort significant historical events or
 1-56 include a curriculum that:

1-57 (A) teaches identity politics;

1-58 (B) teaches that individuals of one race are
 1-59 inherently superior to individuals of another race or that
 1-60 individuals of one race bear personal or collective responsibility

2-1 for actions committed by other individuals of the same race;

2-2 (C) is based on a theory that systemic racism,
 2-3 sexism, oppression, or privilege is inherent in the institutions of
 2-4 the United States or this state or was created to maintain social,
 2-5 political, or economic inequities; or

2-6 (D) requires or attempts to require students to
 2-7 adopt an ideology.

2-8 (c) In reviewing the general education curriculum and other
 2-9 graduation requirements for an institution of higher education
 2-10 under Subsection (b), the governing board of the institution shall
 2-11 consider the potential costs the curriculum or requirements may
 2-12 impose on students, including for additional tuition, fees, and
 2-13 time a student must spend to complete an undergraduate degree
 2-14 program at the institution.

2-15 (d) The governing board of an institution of higher
 2-16 education may appoint a committee to assist the governing board in
 2-17 carrying out its duties under this section, including by making
 2-18 recommendations to the governing board. Members of the committee
 2-19 may include:

2-20 (1) faculty employed full-time by the institution;

2-21 (2) institution administrators;

2-22 (3) community leaders;

2-23 (4) industry representatives; and

2-24 (5) other individuals selected by the governing board.

2-25 (e) Not later than January 1 of each year, the governing
 2-26 board of each institution of higher education shall certify the
 2-27 governing board's compliance with this section to the Texas Higher
 2-28 Education Coordinating Board and each standing legislative
 2-29 committee and subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher
 2-30 education.

2-31 Sec. 51.316. DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW PROCEDURE. (a) In this
 2-32 section:

2-33 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
 2-34 Education Coordinating Board.

2-35 (2) "Governing board" and "institution of higher
 2-36 education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

2-37 (b) Every five years, the coordinating board shall:

2-38 (1) conduct a review to determine the return on
 2-39 investment for students and manageable student debt levels for
 2-40 degree programs at each institution of higher education; and

2-41 (2) prepare and provide to the governing board of each
 2-42 institution of higher education a report on the review conducted
 2-43 under Subdivision (1) for the institution.

2-44 (c) After each review under Subsection (b)(1), the
 2-45 coordinating board shall determine recommended thresholds for each
 2-46 reviewed degree program based on the coordinating board's
 2-47 manageable student debt and return on investment analysis under
 2-48 that subdivision in a manner consistent with the goals of the
 2-49 coordinating board's higher education strategic plan and recommend
 2-50 one of the following performance ratings for the program:

2-51 (1) "reward";

2-52 (2) "monitor";

2-53 (3) "sanction"; or

2-54 (4) "sunset".

2-55 (d) The governing board of each institution of higher
 2-56 education shall assign a performance rating to each degree program
 2-57 offered by the institution based on the coordinating board's
 2-58 recommendation under Subsection (c).

2-59 (e) An institution of higher education may not use money
 2-60 appropriated by the legislature to provide a degree program that
 2-61 receives a "sanction" rating under Subsection (d) beginning with
 2-62 the academic year immediately following the academic year in which
 2-63 the rating was received.

2-64 (f) An institution of higher education may not enroll
 2-65 students in a degree program that receives a "sunset" rating under
 2-66 Subsection (d) beginning with the academic year immediately
 2-67 following the academic year in which the rating was received. The
 2-68 institution shall notify each student enrolled in the program at
 2-69 the time the program receives the rating of the rating and give the

3-1 student the opportunity to complete the student's degree. The
 3-2 institution shall consolidate or eliminate the program after the
 3-3 last student enrolled in the program is awarded a degree.

3-4 SECTION 2. Section 51.352, Education Code, is amended by
 3-5 adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

3-6 (g) The governing board of an institution of higher
 3-7 education may overturn any decision made by the administration of a
 3-8 campus under the board's control and management.

3-9 (h) The governing board of each institution of higher
 3-10 education shall annually submit to the governor, the lieutenant
 3-11 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each
 3-12 member of the legislature a report regarding decisions made by the
 3-13 governing board for the applicable academic year on:

3-14 (1) any hiring of administration and faculty in which
 3-15 the board was involved;

3-16 (2) curriculum;

3-17 (3) any review and evaluation of the institution's
 3-18 administration; and

3-19 (4) any other subject as determined by the governing
 3-20 board.

3-21 SECTION 3. Subchapter G, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
 3-22 amended by adding Sections 51.3522 and 51.3541 to read as follows:

3-23 Sec. 51.3522. FACULTY COUNCIL OR SENATE. (a) In this
 3-24 section, "faculty council or senate" means a representative faculty
 3-25 organization.

3-26 (b) Only the governing board of an institution of higher
 3-27 education may establish a faculty council or senate at the
 3-28 institution. Before establishing the faculty council or senate,
 3-29 the governing board must adopt a policy governing the selection of
 3-30 the faculty council's or senate's members that:

3-31 (1) ensures adequate representation of each college
 3-32 and school of the institution;

3-33 (2) requires the members to be faculty members; and

3-34 (3) limits the number of members to not more than 60
 3-35 with at least two representatives from each college or school,
 3-36 including:

3-37 (A) one member appointed by the president of the
 3-38 institution; and

3-39 (B) the remaining members elected by a vote of
 3-40 the faculty of the member's respective college or school.

3-41 (c) A faculty council or senate is advisory only and may not
 3-42 be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter. A
 3-43 faculty council or senate shall represent the entire faculty of the
 3-44 institution of higher education and advise the institution
 3-45 administration and any system administration regarding matters
 3-46 related to the general welfare of the institution. A faculty
 3-47 council or senate may not issue any statement or publish a report on
 3-48 any matter not directly related to the council's or senate's duties
 3-49 to advise the institution administration.

3-50 (d) Service on the faculty council or senate is an
 3-51 additional duty of the faculty member's employment. Members of the
 3-52 faculty council or senate are not entitled to compensation or
 3-53 reimbursement of expenses.

3-54 (e) A member of the faculty council or senate appointed by
 3-55 the president of the institution of higher education in accordance
 3-56 with Subsection (b)(3)(A) may serve up to six consecutive one-year
 3-57 terms and then may only be reappointed after the second anniversary
 3-58 of the last day of the member's most recent term. A member of the
 3-59 faculty council or senate elected by a vote of the faculty of the
 3-60 member's respective college or school serves a two-year term,
 3-61 staggered in a manner that allows approximately one-half of the
 3-62 elected members to be elected each year, and may only be reelected
 3-63 after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most
 3-64 recent term.

3-65 (f) A faculty member serving on the faculty council or
 3-66 senate may be immediately removed from the council or senate for
 3-67 failure to conduct the member's responsibilities within the
 3-68 council's or senate's parameters, including by using the member's
 3-69 position for personal political advocacy, failing to attend council

4-1 or senate meetings, or engaging in other similar misconduct as
 4-2 determined by the governing board of the institution of higher
 4-3 education. A member of a faculty council or senate may be removed on
 4-4 recommendation of the institution's provost and approval by the
 4-5 institution's president.

4-6 (g) The president of the institution of higher education,
 4-7 with the advice and consent of the governing board, shall appoint a
 4-8 presiding officer, associate presiding officer, and secretary from
 4-9 the members of the faculty council or senate.

4-10 (h) The presiding officer appointed under Subsection (g)
 4-11 shall preside over meetings of the faculty council or senate and
 4-12 represent the council or senate in official communications with the
 4-13 institution administration and any system administration.

4-14 (i) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to a
 4-15 faculty council or senate.

4-16 (j) The faculty council or senate shall conduct meetings at
 4-17 which a quorum is present in a manner that is open to the public and
 4-18 in accordance with procedures prescribed by the president of the
 4-19 institution of higher education.

4-20 (k) The faculty council or senate shall broadcast over the
 4-21 Internet live video and audio, as applicable, of each open meeting
 4-22 of the council or senate if more than 50 percent of the members of
 4-23 the council or senate are in attendance.

4-24 (l) The faculty council or senate shall adopt rules for
 4-25 establishing a quorum.

4-26 (m) The following shall be made available to the public on
 4-27 the institution of higher education's Internet website not later
 4-28 than the seventh day before a meeting of the faculty council or
 4-29 senate:

4-30 (1) an agenda for the meeting with sufficient detail
 4-31 to indicate the items on which final action is contemplated; and

4-32 (2) any curriculum proposals reviewed by the council
 4-33 or senate that will be discussed or voted on at the meeting.

4-34 (n) The names of the members in attendance must be recorded
 4-35 at a meeting in which the faculty council or senate conducts
 4-36 business related to:

4-37 (1) a vote of no confidence regarding an institution
 4-38 or system administrator; or

4-39 (2) policies related to curriculum and academic
 4-40 standards.

4-41 (o) This section may not be construed to limit a faculty
 4-42 member of an institution of higher education from exercising the
 4-43 faculty member's freedom of association protected by the United
 4-44 States or Texas Constitution.

4-45 Sec. 51.3541. RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT. (a) In this
 4-46 section, "governing board" and "institution of higher education"
 4-47 have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

4-48 (b) The president of an institution of higher education
 4-49 shall approve or deny the hiring of an individual for the position
 4-50 of vice president, provost, dean, or a similar leadership position
 4-51 that oversees curriculum or student affairs for the institution.

4-52 (c) The president of an institution of higher education
 4-53 shall conduct annual evaluations for individuals who hold the
 4-54 positions described by Subsection (b) at the institution and report
 4-55 to the institution's governing board regarding any recommendations
 4-56 for removing an individual from a position.

4-57 (d) The president of an institution of higher education may
 4-58 not delegate the president's responsibilities under this section to
 4-59 any other individual.

4-60 SECTION 4. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
 4-61 amended by adding Sections 51.9431 and 51.989 to read as follows:

4-62 Sec. 51.9431. GRIEVANCE, HIRING, AND DISCIPLINE
 4-63 DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. (a) In this section, "governing
 4-64 board," "institution of higher education," and "university system"
 4-65 have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

4-66 (b) Only the president or provost of an institution of
 4-67 higher education, university system administration, or the
 4-68 president's, provost's, or administration's designee may be
 4-69 involved in decision-making regarding review of a faculty

5-1 grievance, including under Section 51.960, or the faculty
 5-2 discipline process.

5-3 (c) A faculty member of an institution of higher education
 5-4 may not have final decision-making authority on any decision
 5-5 regarding the hiring of an individual for employment by the
 5-6 institution.

5-7 Sec. 51.989. REVIEW OF MINOR DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE
 5-8 PROGRAMS. (a) In this section, "governing board" and "institution
 5-9 of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

5-10 (b) The president of an institution of higher education
 5-11 shall develop a process for reviewing minor degree and certificate
 5-12 programs offered by the institution to identify programs with low
 5-13 enrollment that may require consolidation or elimination.

5-14 (c) The criteria for review under Subsection (b) must
 5-15 require that minor degree and certificate programs have specific
 5-16 industry data to substantiate workforce demand to avoid
 5-17 consideration for consolidation or elimination.

5-18 (d) A minor degree or certificate program that has operated
 5-19 less than six years at the time the president of an institution of
 5-20 higher education conducts the review under this section is exempt
 5-21 from that review.

5-22 (e) The governing board of an institution of higher
 5-23 education shall approve or deny any decision made by the president
 5-24 of the institution to consolidate or eliminate a minor degree or
 5-25 certificate program as a result of the review conducted under this
 5-26 section.

5-27 (f) The president of an institution of higher education
 5-28 shall conduct a review under this section once every four years.

5-29 SECTION 5. Section 61.031, Education Code, is reenacted and
 5-30 amended to read as follows:

5-31 Sec. 61.031. OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN [~~PUBLIC INFORMATION AND~~
 5-32 COMPLAINTS]. (a) In this section:

5-33 (1) "Office" means the Texas Higher Education
 5-34 Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman established under this
 5-35 section.

5-36 (2) "Ombudsman" means the individual serving as
 5-37 ombudsman for the office.

5-38 (b) The board shall establish the Texas Higher Education
 5-39 Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman to serve as an
 5-40 intermediary between the legislature and the public and
 5-41 institutions of higher education, including by answering questions
 5-42 from the legislature and the public regarding the obligations of an
 5-43 institution of higher education to students, faculty, employees,
 5-44 and the public.

5-45 (c) The office shall receive and, if necessary, investigate
 5-46 reports regarding an institution of higher education's failure to
 5-47 comply with:

5-48 (1) Subchapter E-2, Chapter 51;

5-49 (2) Sections 51.315 and 51.316;

5-50 (3) Section 51.3522;

5-51 (4) Section 51.3525;

5-52 (5) Section 51.3541;

5-53 (6) Section 51.9315;

5-54 (7) Section 51.942;

5-55 (8) Section 51.9431;

5-56 (9) Section 61.0522; and

5-57 (10) Section 752.053, Government Code.

5-58 (d) An individual with reason to believe an institution of
 5-59 higher education has failed to comply with a provision listed under
 5-60 Subsection (c) may submit a notarized, written complaint to the
 5-61 office by mail that:

5-62 (1) provides the individual's name and contact
 5-63 information;

5-64 (2) states the specific statute the individual
 5-65 believes has been violated; and

5-66 (3) includes specific facts supporting the
 5-67 allegation, including:

5-68 (A) relevant dates;

5-69 (B) identifying information regarding the

6-1 individuals involved; and

6-2 (C) any supporting evidence in the individual's
6-3 possession.

6-4 (e) The office [~~board~~] shall maintain a file on each written
6-5 complaint filed with the board. The file must include:

6-6 (1) the name of the person who filed the complaint;

6-7 (2) the date the complaint is received by the board;

6-8 (3) the subject matter of the complaint;

6-9 (4) the name of each person contacted in relation to
6-10 the complaint;

6-11 (5) a summary of the results of the review or
6-12 investigation of the complaint; and

6-13 (6) an explanation of the reason the file was closed,
6-14 if the office [~~board~~] closed the file without taking action other
6-15 than to investigate the complaint.

6-16 (f) [~~(b)~~] The office [~~board~~] shall provide to the person
6-17 filing the complaint and to each person who is a subject of the
6-18 complaint a copy of the office's [~~board's~~] policies and procedures
6-19 relating to complaint investigation and resolution.

6-20 (g) The office shall notify the governing board of the
6-21 institution of higher education that is the subject of a complaint
6-22 of noncompliance that meets the requirements under Subsection (d)
6-23 not later than the fifth day after the date the office receives the
6-24 complaint. The governing board of the institution shall respond to
6-25 the complaint not later than the 25th day after the date the
6-26 governing board receives the notice.

6-27 (h) In investigating a complaint of noncompliance regarding
6-28 an institution of higher education received under this section, the
6-29 office may request information from the institution. The governing
6-30 board of the institution shall respond in writing to the office's
6-31 written request for information not later than the 30th day after
6-32 the date the institution receives the request.

6-33 (i) Based on findings related to an investigation under this
6-34 section, the office shall submit to the governing board of the
6-35 institution of higher education that is the subject of an
6-36 investigation under this section a report on the investigation that
6-37 includes the office's final determination regarding the
6-38 investigation and requirements for action based on the conclusions
6-39 of the investigation.

6-40 (j) [~~(c)~~] The office [~~board~~], at least quarterly until
6-41 final disposition of the complaint, shall notify the person filing
6-42 the complaint and each person who is a subject of the complaint of
6-43 the status of the investigation unless the notice would jeopardize
6-44 an undercover investigation.

6-45 (k) If, not later than the 30th day after the date the office
6-46 submits the report under Subsection (i) to the governing board of an
6-47 institution of higher education that is the subject of an
6-48 investigation under this section, the office determines the
6-49 governing board has not resolved any noncompliance issues
6-50 identified in the report, the office shall submit to the attorney
6-51 general a report on the noncompliance that includes the office's
6-52 requirements for action.

6-53 (l) On receipt of a report under Subsection (k), the
6-54 attorney general may ensure the institution of higher education's
6-55 compliance by acting to impose penalties on the institution,
6-56 including:

6-57 (1) filing a civil suit against the institution to
6-58 compel the institution's compliance or to collect a civil penalty
6-59 not to exceed \$1,000; or

6-60 (2) recommending to the legislature that the
6-61 institution's appropriations be withheld.

6-62 (m) [~~(d)~~] Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
6-63 information that relates to a current, former, or prospective
6-64 applicant or student of an educational institution and that is
6-65 obtained, received, or held by the office [~~board~~] for the purpose of
6-66 providing assistance with access to postsecondary education is
6-67 confidential and excepted from disclosure under Chapter 552,
6-68 Government Code, and may only be released in conformity with the
6-69 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C.

7-1 Section 1232g). The office [~~board~~] may withhold information
 7-2 prohibited from being disclosed under this subsection without
 7-3 requesting a decision from the attorney general under Subchapter G,
 7-4 Chapter 552, Government Code.

7-5 (n) The office may:

7-6 (1) require cooperation from an institution of higher
 7-7 education in an investigation under this section if the office
 7-8 determines a complaint of noncompliance with a provision listed
 7-9 under Subsection (c) is credible; and

7-10 (2) publicize a violation of a provision listed under
 7-11 Subsection (c) by an institution of higher education that is
 7-12 confirmed by an investigation.

7-13 (o) The office shall annually submit a report to the
 7-14 governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, and the
 7-15 chair of each standing legislative committee with jurisdiction over
 7-16 higher education regarding:

7-17 (1) the number of reports of noncompliance with a
 7-18 provision listed under Subsection (c) received by the office;

7-19 (2) the number of investigations conducted by the
 7-20 office; and

7-21 (3) a summary of the results of investigations
 7-22 described by Subdivision (2).

7-23 SECTION 6. Section 61.052, Education Code, is amended by
 7-24 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

7-25 (a-1) A governing board may exclude from the comprehensive
 7-26 list of courses submitted under Subsection (a) courses that were
 7-27 not taught as an organized class or provided through individual
 7-28 instruction for the preceding two academic years.

7-29 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 7-30 amended by adding Section 61.0522 to read as follows:

7-31 Sec. 61.0522. CURRICULUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) In this
 7-32 section:

7-33 (1) "Advisory committee" means the curriculum
 7-34 advisory committee established under this section.

7-35 (2) "Core curriculum" has the meaning assigned by
 7-36 Section 61.821.

7-37 (b) The board shall establish an advisory committee to
 7-38 review the core curriculum requirements of institutions of higher
 7-39 education.

7-40 (c) The advisory committee consists of:

7-41 (1) three members appointed by the governor;

7-42 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

7-43 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house
 7-44 of representatives; and

7-45 (4) the commissioner of higher education serving as an
 7-46 ex officio member.

7-47 (d) The governor shall appoint the chair of the advisory
 7-48 committee from among the governor's appointees.

7-49 (e) The advisory committee shall consider methods for
 7-50 determining foundational component courses and for condensing the
 7-51 number of core curriculum courses required at institutions of
 7-52 higher education.

7-53 (f) Not later than December 1, 2026, the advisory committee
 7-54 shall produce a report regarding the advisory committee's findings
 7-55 and recommendations under this section and provide the report to
 7-56 the governing boards of institutions of higher education.

7-57 (g) The board shall adopt rules based on the findings of the
 7-58 advisory committee and ensure the governing boards of institutions
 7-59 of higher education implement those rules.

7-60 (h) Not later than the start of the 2027-2028 academic year,
 7-61 the governing board of each institution of higher education shall
 7-62 implement the advisory committee's recommendations included in the
 7-63 report provided under Subsection (f).

7-64 (i) The advisory committee is abolished and this section
 7-65 expires September 1, 2027.

7-66 SECTION 8. Section 61.084, Education Code, is amended by
 7-67 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (i) to read as
 7-68 follows:

7-69 (d) The content of the instruction at the training program

8-1 shall focus on the official role and duties of the members of
8-2 governing boards and shall provide training in the areas of
8-3 budgeting, policy development, ethics, and governance. Topics
8-4 covered by the training program must include:

8-5 (1) auditing procedures and recent audits of
8-6 institutions of higher education;

8-7 (2) the enabling legislation that creates
8-8 institutions of higher education;

8-9 (3) the role of the governing board at institutions of
8-10 higher education and the relationship between the governing board
8-11 and an institution's administration, faculty and staff, and
8-12 students, including limitations on the authority of the governing
8-13 board;

8-14 (4) the mission statements of institutions of higher
8-15 education;

8-16 (5) disciplinary and investigative authority of the
8-17 governing board;

8-18 (6) the requirements of the open meetings law, Chapter
8-19 551, Government Code, and the open records law, Chapter 552,
8-20 Government Code;

8-21 (7) the requirements of conflict of interest laws and
8-22 other laws relating to public officials;

8-23 (8) any applicable ethics policies adopted by
8-24 institutions of higher education or the Texas Ethics Commission;

8-25 (9) the requirements of laws relating to the
8-26 protection of student information under the Family Educational
8-27 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g) or any
8-28 other federal or state law relating to the privacy of student
8-29 information; ~~and~~

8-30 (10) an overview of the legislature, the General
8-31 Appropriations Act, and the state budget as those topics relate to
8-32 the responsibilities of the governing board;

8-33 (11) an emphasis on the commitment the members of the
8-34 governing board are making to:

8-35 (A) the institutions of higher education under
8-36 the board's control and management and, if applicable, the
8-37 university system;

8-38 (B) this state; and

8-39 (C) taxpayers of this state; and

8-40 (12) any other topic relating to higher education the
8-41 board considers important.

8-42 (i) On completion of a training program under this section,
8-43 a member of a governing board shall provide a sworn statement
8-44 affirming the member's understanding of the member's duties and
8-45 responsibilities.

8-46 SECTION 9. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
8-47 academic year.

8-48 SECTION 10. Not later than January 1, 2027, the governing
8-49 board of each public institution of higher education shall:

8-50 (1) complete the governing board's initial review in
8-51 accordance with Section 51.315, Education Code, as added by this
8-52 Act; and

8-53 (2) certify compliance with Section 51.315, Education
8-54 Code, as added by this Act, as required by Subsection (e) of that
8-55 section.

8-56 SECTION 11. A faculty council or senate established at a
8-57 public institution of higher education before the effective date of
8-58 this Act is abolished on October 1, 2025, unless:

8-59 (1) the faculty council or senate was established in
8-60 the manner prescribed by Section 51.3522, Education Code, as added
8-61 by this Act; or

8-62 (2) the faculty council's or senate's continuation is
8-63 ratified by the institution's governing board before that date
8-64 based on a finding by the governing board that the faculty council
8-65 or senate meets the requirements of any policy adopted by the
8-66 governing board under that section.

8-67 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect immediately if it
8-68 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
8-69 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.

9-1 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
9-2 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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