

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 187

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to reporting and providing information regarding
3 discrimination and harassment based on race, color, or ethnicity at
4 public institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 51.9795 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.9795. REPORTING AND INFORMATION REGARDING
9 DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BASED ON RACE, COLOR, OR ETHNICITY.

10 (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the
11 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

12 (b) An institution of higher education shall develop and
13 implement a process for students enrolled at the institution to
14 submit complaints to the institution regarding incidents of
15 discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or ethnicity at
16 the institution. The process must include:

17 (1) the ability to submit a complaint through an
18 Internet website and a hotline maintained by the institution; and

19 (2) an option to remain anonymous.

20 (c) Each year, an institution of higher education shall
21 inform freshman and returning students regarding:

22 (1) the institution's policy prohibiting
23 discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or ethnicity;

24 (2) the process for submitting a complaint regarding

1 incidents of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or
2 ethnicity at the institution to:

3 (A) the institution;

4 (B) the United States Department of Education's
5 Office for Civil Rights; and

6 (C) the institution's accrediting agency; and

7 (3) the number of complaints regarding incidents of
8 discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or ethnicity at
9 the institution received by each entity described by Subdivision
10 (2) during the preceding academic year, to the extent available.

11 (d) An institution of higher education shall post in a
12 publicly accessible location on the institution's Internet website
13 the information described by Subsection (c)(3).

14 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
15 academic year.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.