

AN ACT

relating to the elimination of certain formula funding and dropped course restrictions for returning adult students at public institutions of higher education and to the tuition rate that may be charged to those students for certain excessive undergraduate hours.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.907, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(e-1) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules under which an institution of higher education shall permit a student to drop one additional course under circumstances described by Subsection (b) than the number of courses permitted to be dropped under Subsection (c) or under a policy adopted under Subsection (d) if the student:

(1) has reenrolled at the institution following a break in enrollment from the institution or another institution of higher education covering the 24-month period preceding the first class day of the initial semester or other academic term of the student's reenrollment; and

(2) successfully completed at least 50 semester credit hours of course work at an institution of higher education before that break in enrollment.

SECTION 2. Section 61.059, Education Code, is amended by

1 adding Subsection (r) to read as follows:

2 (r) Notwithstanding any other law, the board may not exclude
3 from the number of semester credit hours reported to the
4 Legislative Budget Board for formula funding under this section
5 semester credit hours for any course taken up to three times by a
6 student who:

7 (1) has reenrolled at an institution of higher
8 education following a break in enrollment from the institution or
9 another institution of higher education covering the 24-month
10 period preceding the first class day of the initial semester or
11 other academic term of the student's reenrollment; and

12 (2) successfully completed at least 50 semester credit
13 hours of course work at an institution of higher education before
14 that break in enrollment.

15 SECTION 3. Section 61.0595, Education Code, is amended by
16 amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

17 (d) The following are not counted for purposes of
18 determining whether the student has previously earned the number of
19 semester credit hours specified by Subsection (a):

20 (1) semester credit hours earned by the student before
21 receiving a baccalaureate degree that has previously been awarded
22 to the student;

23 (2) semester credit hours earned by the student by
24 examination or under any other procedure by which credit is earned
25 without registering for a course for which tuition is charged;

26 (3) credit for a remedial education course, a
27 technical course, a workforce education course funded according to

1 contact hours, or another course that does not count toward a degree
2 program at the institution;

3 (4) semester credit hours earned by the student at a
4 private institution or an out-of-state institution; ~~and~~

5 (5) semester credit hours earned by the student before
6 graduating from high school and used to satisfy high school
7 graduation requirements; and

8 (6) the first additional 15 semester credit hours
9 earned toward a degree program by a student who:

10 (A) has reenrolled at an institution of higher
11 education following a break in enrollment from the institution or
12 another institution of higher education covering the 24-month
13 period preceding the first class day of the initial semester or
14 other academic term of the student's reenrollment; and

15 (B) successfully completed at least 50 semester
16 credit hours of course work at an institution of higher education
17 before that break in enrollment.

18 SECTION 4. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
19 Board shall adopt the rules required by Section 51.907(e-1),
20 Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than June 1, 2018.

21 (b) The change in law made by this Act to Section 51.907,
22 Education Code, applies beginning with the 2018 fall semester.

23 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
24 61.059 and 61.0595, Education Code, apply beginning with funding
25 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the
26 state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019.

27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1782 passed the Senate on May 4, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1782 passed the House, with amendments, on May 16, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 13, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor