

By: Castro

H.B. No. 992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to excess undergraduate credit hours at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.907, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

(a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution," "governing board," ~~[and]~~ "institution of higher education," and "public junior college" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(c) Except as provided under rules adopted under Subsection (d) or by Subsection (g):

(1) unless Subdivision (2) applies, an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, under circumstances described by Subsection (b); and

(2) a general academic teaching institution may not permit a student to whom Subsection (g) applies to drop more than four courses under circumstances described by Subsection (b).

(g) In determining the number of courses dropped by a student for purposes of this section, a general academic teaching institution may not count a course dropped by a student enrolled in

1 the institution if:

2 (1) the student dropped the course while enrolled in a  
3 public junior college; and

4 (2) the student transferred to the general academic  
5 teaching institution after earning from another institution of  
6 higher education:

7 (A) at least 30 semester credit hours; or

8 (B) an associate degree.

9 (h) An institution of higher education shall provide  
10 written notice to each undergraduate student of the provisions of  
11 this section before the end of the first semester in which the  
12 student is enrolled in the institution.

13 SECTION 2. Section 61.0595(d), Education Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

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

18 (1) semester credit hours earned by the student before  
19 receiving an associate or [a] baccalaureate degree that has  
20 previously been awarded to the student;

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

24 (3) credit for a remedial education course, a  
25 technical course, a workforce education course funded according to  
26 contact hours, or another course that does not count toward a degree  
27 program at the institution;

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

3           (5) semester credit hours earned by the student before  
4 graduating from high school and used to satisfy high school  
5 graduation requirements.

6           SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
7 61.0595, Education Code, applies beginning with the funding  
8 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the  
9 2013-2014 academic year.

10          SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
11 51.907, Education Code, applies beginning with the fall 2011  
12 semester.

13          SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.