

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1714
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2015; March 23, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 13, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 13, 2015,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1714 By: West

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the release of student academic information by a public
1-20 institution of higher education for certain purposes and the manner
1-21 in which the information is used.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
1-24 amended by adding Section 51.9715 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 51.9715. RELEASE OF STUDENT ACADEMIC INFORMATION.

1-26 (a) An institution of higher education may request the submission
1-27 of a signed consent form authorizing the institution to release
1-28 academic course, grade, and credit information with each:

1-29 (1) application for undergraduate transfer admission
1-30 to the institution, if the institution is a general academic
1-31 teaching institution, to be used for the purposes of Section
1-32 61.833; or

1-33 (2) request from a student for a release of the
1-34 student's transcript by the institution.

1-35 (b) An institution of higher education may release student
1-36 information in accordance with Subsection (a) through:

1-37 (1) the National Student Clearinghouse; or

1-38 (2) a similar national electronic data sharing and
1-39 exchange platform operated by an agent of the institution that
1-40 meets nationally accepted standards, conventions, and practices.

1-41 SECTION 2. Section 61.833, Education Code, is amended by
1-42 amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsections
1-43 (c-1), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

1-44 (a) In this section,

1-45 (1) "lower-division institution of higher education"
1-46 means a public junior college, public state college, or public
1-47 technical institute; and

1-48 (2) "reverse transfer data sharing platform" means:

1-49 (A) the National Student Clearinghouse; or

1-50 (B) a similar national electronic data sharing
1-51 and exchange platform operated by an agent of the institution that
1-52 meets nationally accepted standards, conventions, and practices.

1-53 (b) Subsection (c) [This section] applies to a student
1-54 enrolled in a general academic teaching institution who:

1-55 (1) transferred to the institution from or previously
1-56 attended a lower-division institution of higher education;

1-57 (2) earned at least 30 credit hours for course work
1-58 successfully completed at the lower-division institution of higher
1-59 education; ~~and~~

1-60 (3) has earned a cumulative total of at least 66 credit

2-1 hours for course work successfully completed; and
 2-2 (4) has not submitted a signed consent form by the
 2-3 method described in Section 51.9715(a).

2-4 (c) As soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled
 2-5 in a general academic teaching institution has met the criteria
 2-6 established by Subsection (b)(3), the institution by e-mail or
 2-7 other reasonable method shall request authorization from the
 2-8 student for the institution to release the student's academic
 2-9 course, grade, and credit information [~~transcript~~] to each [~~the~~]
 2-10 lower-division institution of higher education that the student
 2-11 previously attended or to a reverse transfer data sharing platform
 2-12 for the purpose of determining whether the student has earned the
 2-13 credits required for an associate degree awarded by a [~~the~~]
 2-14 lower-division institution of higher education. On receipt of a
 2-15 student's authorization under this subsection, the general
 2-16 academic teaching institution shall release the student's academic
 2-17 course, grade, and credit information [~~transcript~~] to the
 2-18 lower-division institution of higher education or to a reverse
 2-19 transfer data sharing platform.

2-20 (c-1) After a student who has submitted a signed consent
 2-21 form by the method described in Section 51.9715(a) completes a
 2-22 semester or term at a general academic teaching institution, the
 2-23 institution by the method described in Section 51.9715(b) shall
 2-24 release the student's academic course, grade, and credit
 2-25 information to a lower-division institution of higher education
 2-26 that the student previously attended for the purpose of determining
 2-27 whether the student has earned the credits required for an
 2-28 associate degree awarded by the lower-division institution of
 2-29 higher education.

2-30 (d) After receiving [~~a~~] student information [~~transcript~~]
 2-31 from a general academic teaching institution under Subsection (c)
 2-32 or Subsection (c-1), a lower-division institution of higher
 2-33 education shall review the information [~~transcript~~] and, if the
 2-34 lower-division institution of higher education determines the
 2-35 student has earned the credits required to receive an associate
 2-36 degree awarded by the lower-division institution of higher
 2-37 education, may award the student the degree.

2-38 (e) Nothing in this section affects the ability of a
 2-39 lower-division institution of higher education to determine the
 2-40 course work required to earn an associate degree awarded by that
 2-41 institution.

2-42 (f) Annually, each lower-division institution of higher
 2-43 education shall produce a report recording the number of degrees
 2-44 awarded by the institution in the previous academic year under this
 2-45 section. An institution shall:

2-46 (1) make the report publicly available; and
 2-47 (2) submit the information to a reverse transfer data
 2-48 sharing platform.

2-49 SECTION 3. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply
 2-50 beginning with the 2015 fall semester.

2-51 (b) For the purpose of administering Section 61.833,
 2-52 Education Code, as amended by this Act, in regard to a student who
 2-53 transferred to a general academic teaching institution before the
 2-54 institution could obtain a signed consent form from the student
 2-55 under Section 51.9715(a)(1), Education Code, as added by this Act,
 2-56 the institution shall request authorization from the student for
 2-57 the institution's release of the student's academic information
 2-58 under Section 61.833(c), Education Code, as amended by this Act, in
 2-59 the manner prescribed by that subsection as it existed immediately
 2-60 before the effective date of this Act.

2-61 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-62 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-63 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-64 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-65 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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