

1-1 By: Powell S.B. No. 1017
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 22, 2019; March 7, 2019,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 4, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 4, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

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

1-19 relating to the creation of the advisory council on postsecondary
 1-20 education for persons with intellectual and developmental
 1-21 disabilities.

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

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 61.0663(b), Education Code, is amended
 1-24 to read as follows:

1-25 (b) The board shall:

1-26 (1) post the inventory on the board's Internet website
 1-27 in an easily identifiable and accessible location;

1-28 (2) submit the inventory to the Texas Education Agency
 1-29 for inclusion in the transition and employment guide under Section
 1-30 29.0112; and

1-31 (3) update the inventory at least annually [~~once every~~
 1-32 ~~two years~~].

1-33 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 1-34 amended by adding Section 61.06641 to read as follows:

1-35 Sec. 61.06641. ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WITH
 1-36 INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; ADVISORY COUNCIL.

1-37 (a) The board, with the assistance of the advisory council
 1-38 established under this section, shall:

1-39 (1) periodically review the policies and practices
 1-40 that increase access to higher education opportunities for persons
 1-41 with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

1-42 (2) distribute educational outreach materials
 1-43 developed by the advisory council to increase awareness regarding
 1-44 postsecondary opportunities for persons with intellectual and
 1-45 developmental disabilities.

1-46 (b) The board shall establish an advisory council on
 1-47 postsecondary education for persons with intellectual and
 1-48 developmental disabilities, in accordance with Section 61.026, to
 1-49 advise the board on policies and practices to improve postsecondary
 1-50 education opportunities for persons with intellectual and
 1-51 developmental disabilities.

1-52 (c) The advisory council is composed of the following
 1-53 members appointed as follows:

1-54 (1) one member appointed by the executive director of
 1-55 the Texas Workforce Commission;

1-56 (2) one member appointed by the commissioner of the
 1-57 Texas Education Agency;

1-58 (3) a representative of the continuing advisory
 1-59 committee established under Section 29.006 appointed by the
 1-60 governor; and

1-61 (4) the following members appointed by the board:

2-1 (A) a representative of a University Centers for
2-2 Excellence in Developmental Disabilities program in this state;
2-3 (B) a representative of a disability advocacy
2-4 group;
2-5 (C) a parent or guardian of a person with an
2-6 intellectual or developmental disability;
2-7 (D) a parent or guardian of a person with an
2-8 intellectual or developmental disability who is currently enrolled
2-9 in an institution of higher education;
2-10 (E) a person with an intellectual or
2-11 developmental disability enrolled in an institution of higher
2-12 education;
2-13 (F) a person with an intellectual or
2-14 developmental disability who has completed a program at an
2-15 institution of higher education;
2-16 (G) a high school counselor;
2-17 (H) a specialist in the transition to employment
2-18 from a regional education service center, school district, or other
2-19 state agency; and
2-20 (I) additional representatives with relevant
2-21 experience, as needed.
2-22 (d) Members of the advisory council serve two-year terms.
2-23 (e) A member of the advisory council is not entitled to
2-24 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and
2-25 necessary expenses incurred by the member while conducting the
2-26 business of the advisory council.
2-27 (f) The members of the advisory council shall elect a
2-28 presiding officer from among the membership.
2-29 (g) The advisory council shall:
2-30 (1) study the accessibility of higher education for
2-31 persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
2-32 (2) provide advice regarding resolving barriers to
2-33 accessing higher education for persons with intellectual and
2-34 developmental disabilities; and
2-35 (3) identify, evaluate, and develop recommendations
2-36 to address barriers to accessing higher education for persons with
2-37 intellectual and developmental disabilities who are or have been in
2-38 the foster care system and any data collection issues in relation to
2-39 those persons.
2-40 (h) The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly at
2-41 the call of the presiding officer.
2-42 (i) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any
2-43 other law, the advisory council may meet by telephone conference
2-44 call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method.
2-45 A meeting held by telephone conference call, videoconference, or
2-46 other similar telecommunication method is subject to the
2-47 requirements of Sections 551.125(c)-(f), Government Code.
2-48 (j) The advisory council shall submit a report to the board
2-49 annually, at a time determined by the board. The report must
2-50 include information regarding:
2-51 (1) the advisory council's activities;
2-52 (2) any relevant rule changes necessary to decrease
2-53 barriers to accessing higher education for persons with
2-54 intellectual and developmental disabilities; and
2-55 (3) recommendations for potential outreach and
2-56 education materials to increase public awareness of the
2-57 availability of higher education opportunities and resources for
2-58 persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
2-59 including information regarding available grants, loan programs,
2-60 and other resources that may require statewide outreach efforts.
2-61 (k) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
2-62 the advisory council shall provide a report to the board and to the
2-63 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
2-64 representatives, the members of the legislature, and, as necessary,
2-65 other state agencies or relevant stakeholders. The report must
2-66 include:
2-67 (1) historic and current higher education data and
2-68 related information regarding persons with intellectual and
2-69 developmental disabilities, including:

- 3-1 (A) graduation rates;
- 3-2 (B) the geographic distribution of institutions
- 3-3 of higher education providing appropriate opportunities;
- 3-4 (C) a description of available programs; and
- 3-5 (D) any other relevant data; and
- 3-6 (2) recommendations for changes to support success and
- 3-7 achievement for persons with intellectual and developmental
- 3-8 disabilities in accessing higher education, including
- 3-9 recommendations for:
- 3-10 (A) addressing gaps in data; and
- 3-11 (B) identifying problems with and barriers to
- 3-12 accessing higher education.
- 3-13 (1) The board shall provide administrative support for the
- 3-14 advisory council.

3-15 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than January 1, 2020, the
 3-16 appropriate appointing authorities shall appoint the members to the
 3-17 advisory council on postsecondary education for persons with
 3-18 intellectual and developmental disabilities as required by Section
 3-19 61.06641, Education Code, as added by this Act.

3-20 (b) Not later than December 1, 2020, the advisory council on
 3-21 postsecondary education for persons with intellectual and
 3-22 developmental disabilities shall complete the initial reports
 3-23 required under Sections 61.06641(j) and (k), Education Code, as
 3-24 added by this Act.

3-25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 3-26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 3-27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 3-28 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 3-29 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

3-30 * * * * *