

1-1 By: Campbell S.B. No. 937
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 2, 2021; March 11, 2021, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border
1-4 Security; April 1, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 1, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----------|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-7 | | | | |
| 1-8 | Campbell | X | | |
| 1-9 | Hall | X | | |
| 1-10 | Blanco | X | | |
| 1-11 | Eckhardt | X | | |
| 1-12 | Gutierrez | X | | |
| 1-13 | Seliger | X | | |
| 1-14 | Taylor | X | | |

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to an excused absence from a public institution of higher
1-18 education for a student called to required military service.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. The heading to Section [51.9111](#), Education Code,
1-21 is amended to read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 51.9111. EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR REQUIRED [~~ACTIVE~~]
1-23 MILITARY SERVICE.

1-24 SECTION 2. Section [51.9111\(a\)\(2\)](#), Education Code, is
1-25 amended to read as follows:

1-26 (2) "Required [~~Active~~] military service" includes
1-27 required [~~active~~] military service performed by a member of the
1-28 Texas National Guard or the Texas State Guard.

1-29 SECTION 3. Sections [51.9111\(b\)](#) and (c), Education Code, are
1-30 amended to read as follows:

1-31 (b) This section applies only if:

1-32 (1) a student enrolled in an institution of higher
1-33 education fails to attend classes or engage in other required
1-34 activities because the student is called to required [~~active~~]
1-35 military service that is of a reasonably brief duration, as
1-36 determined by rule adopted under Subsection (d); and

1-37 (2) the student chooses not to withdraw as authorized
1-38 by Section [54.006\(f\)](#).

1-39 (c) An institution of higher education shall excuse a
1-40 student from attending classes or engaging in other required
1-41 activities, including examinations, in order for the student to
1-42 participate in required [~~active~~] military service to which the
1-43 student is called, including travel associated with the service. A
1-44 student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be
1-45 penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to complete an
1-46 assignment or take an examination from which the student is excused
1-47 within a reasonable time after the absence. An instructor may
1-48 appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily
1-49 complete the assignment or examination within a reasonable time
1-50 after the absence.

1-51 SECTION 4. (a) Section [51.9111](#), Education Code, as amended
1-52 by this Act, applies beginning with the 2021 fall semester.

1-53 (b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this
1-54 Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt or
1-55 amend rules as necessary to implement Section [51.9111](#), Education
1-56 Code, as amended by this Act.

1-57 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-58 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-59 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-60 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-61 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

1-62 * * * * *