

1-1 By: Paul, Tepper (Senate Sponsor - Bettencourt) H.B. No. 2920
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2023;
 1-3 May 1, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 18, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0;
 1-6 May 18, 2023, 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	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2920 By: Springer

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to the distribution, posting, or provision of information
 1-26 regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities and to
 1-27 the confidentiality of certain information relating to persons
 1-28 provided assistance in accessing postsecondary education.

1-29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-30 SECTION 1. Section 7.040(a), Education Code, is amended to
 1-31 read as follows:

1-32 (a) The agency shall prepare information comparing
 1-33 institutions of higher education in this state and post the
 1-34 information on the agency's Internet website. Information prepared
 1-35 under this section shall be made publicly available in a manner that
 1-36 is accessible ~~[given]~~ to any ~~[a]~~ public or private school student
 1-37 seeking ~~[who requests]~~ the information. The information shall:

1-38 (1) identify postsecondary education and career
 1-39 opportunities, including information that states the benefits of
 1-40 four-year and two-year higher education programs, postsecondary
 1-41 technical education, skilled workforce careers, and career
 1-42 education programs;

1-43 (2) assist prospective postsecondary students in
 1-44 assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or
 1-45 baccalaureate degree program, or other credential program offered
 1-46 by an institution of higher education by comparing ~~[compare]~~ each
 1-47 institution ~~[of higher education]~~ with other institutions using
 1-48 information included in the electronic tools or platforms developed
 1-49 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section
 1-50 61.09022(a) ~~[regarding:~~

1-51 ~~[(A) the relative cost of tuition;~~

1-52 ~~[(B) the retention rate of students;~~

1-53 ~~[(C) the graduation rate of students;~~

1-54 ~~[(D) the average student debt;~~

1-55 ~~[(E) the loan repayment rate of students; and~~

1-56 ~~[(F) the employment rate of students];~~

1-57 (3) identify the state's future workforce needs, as
 1-58 projected by the Texas Workforce Commission; ~~[and]~~

1-59 (4) include annual starting wage information and
 1-60 educational requirements for the top 25 ~~[10]~~ highest demand jobs in

2-1 this state, as identified by the Texas Workforce Commission;
2-2 (5) identify the 40 baccalaureate degree programs with
2-3 the highest average annual wages following graduation; and
2-4 (6) identify the 20 associate degree or certificate
2-5 programs with the highest average annual wages following
2-6 graduation.

2-7 SECTION 2. Section 51.762(b-1), Education Code, is amended
2-8 to read as follows:

2-9 (b-1) An electronic common admission application form
2-10 adopted under this section must include a prominent link to the
2-11 electronic tools or platforms developed by the board under Section
2-12 61.09022 ~~[comparative gainful employment data regarding~~
2-13 ~~institutions of higher education, including information described~~
2-14 ~~by Section 7.040, on a website maintained by the board using data~~
2-15 ~~compiled by the board in coordination with the Texas Workforce~~
2-16 ~~Commission].~~

2-17 SECTION 3. Section 51.763(b), Education Code, is amended to
2-18 read as follows:

2-19 (b) The form must:

2-20 (1) allow each applicant to:

2-21 (A) apply electronically to one or more of the
2-22 general academic teaching institutions within the university
2-23 system; and

2-24 (B) indicate preferences for admission between
2-25 those institutions; and

2-26 (2) include a prominent link to the electronic tools
2-27 or platforms developed by the board under Section 61.09022
2-28 ~~[comparative gainful employment data regarding institutions of~~
2-29 ~~higher education, including information described by Section~~
2-30 ~~7.040, on a website maintained by the board using data compiled by~~
2-31 ~~the board in coordination with the Texas Workforce Commission].~~

2-32 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 61.031, Education Code,
2-33 is amended to read as follows:

2-34 Sec. 61.031. PUBLIC ~~[INTEREST]~~ INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS.

2-35 SECTION 5. Section 61.031, Education Code, is amended by
2-36 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

2-37 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information
2-38 that relates to a current, former, or prospective applicant or
2-39 student of an educational institution and that is obtained,
2-40 received, or held by the board for the purpose of providing
2-41 assistance with access to postsecondary education is confidential
2-42 and excepted from disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code,
2-43 and may only be released in conformity with the Family Educational
2-44 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g). The board
2-45 may withhold information prohibited from being disclosed under this
2-46 subsection without requesting a decision from the attorney general
2-47 under Subchapter G, Chapter 552, Government Code.

2-48 SECTION 6. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
2-49 amended by adding Section 61.09022 to read as follows:

2-50 Sec. 61.09022. INFORMATION TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN ASSESSING
2-51 VALUE OF POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS. (a) From money appropriated
2-52 or otherwise available for the purpose, the board shall develop one
2-53 or more electronic tools or platforms to provide information to
2-54 assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of
2-55 a certificate program, associate or baccalaureate degree program,
2-56 or other credential program offered by an institution of higher
2-57 education or private or independent institution of higher education
2-58 by comparing each institution with other institutions regarding:

2-59 (1) the relative cost of obtaining the certificate,
2-60 degree, or other credential, based on the most recent data
2-61 available to the board from the Texas Workforce Commission,
2-62 institutions of higher education, the federal government, or any
2-63 other source from which the board may obtain reliable data,
2-64 including:

2-65 (A) the cost for each of the following at the 25th
2-66 percentile, the median, and the 75th percentile:

2-67 (i) total cost of attendance;

2-68 (ii) tuition and fees;

2-69 (iii) room and board;

3-1 (iv) books and supplies;
 3-2 (v) transportation; and
 3-3 (vi) other costs; and
 3-4 (B) the estimated net cost remaining after
 3-5 subtracting from the amount described by Paragraph (A) the average
 3-6 amount of scholarship and grant aid awarded to the typical student
 3-7 for the program;
 3-8 (2) the value of the certificate, degree, or other
 3-9 credential as measured by comparing:
 3-10 (A) the median wage earned by students who
 3-11 graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential from
 3-12 the institution; and
 3-13 (B) the median student debt of students who
 3-14 graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential from
 3-15 the institution as compared to the median student debt of all
 3-16 students who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other
 3-17 credential, based on the most recent data available to the board
 3-18 from the Texas Workforce Commission, institutions of higher
 3-19 education, the federal government, or any other source from which
 3-20 the board may obtain reliable data;
 3-21 (3) the average student debt-to-income ratio of
 3-22 students who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other
 3-23 credential from the institution and have student debt, including
 3-24 the estimated monthly student loan payment, computed using the
 3-25 standard 10-year repayment plan;
 3-26 (4) progress on repaying student loans by students who
 3-27 graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential from
 3-28 the institution; and
 3-29 (5) educational outcomes for students seeking the
 3-30 certificate, degree, or other credential, including:
 3-31 (A) for a program designed to be completed in
 3-32 more than one year, the percentage of students who continue in the
 3-33 program after the first year of study;
 3-34 (B) the completion rate;
 3-35 (C) the percentage of students who withdraw or
 3-36 transfer from the institution and subsequently graduate with the
 3-37 certificate, degree, or other credential from another institution
 3-38 of higher education or private or independent institution of higher
 3-39 education;
 3-40 (D) the percentage of students who withdraw from
 3-41 the institution and do not enroll in the program at another
 3-42 institution of higher education or private or independent
 3-43 institution of higher education within three years of the
 3-44 withdrawal; and
 3-45 (E) the percentage of graduates employed in the
 3-46 top five industries in this state, as identified by the Texas
 3-47 Workforce Commission, by certificate program, degree program, or
 3-48 other credential program within one year of graduation.
 3-49 (c) The board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
 3-50 donations from any public or private source to implement this
 3-51 section.
 3-52 (d) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
 3-53 this section.
 3-54 SECTION 7. Section 7.040(c), Education Code, is transferred
 3-55 to Section 61.09022, Education Code, as added by this Act,
 3-56 redesignated as Section 61.09022(b), Education Code, and amended to
 3-57 read as follows:
 3-58 (b) [~~(c)~~] Each institution of higher education shall
 3-59 include on its Internet website, in a prominent location that is not
 3-60 more than three hyperlinks from the website's home page, a link to
 3-61 the electronic tools or platforms developed by the board
 3-62 [~~information posted on the agency's Internet website~~] under
 3-63 Subsection (a).
 3-64 SECTION 8. Section 2308A.007, Government Code, is amended
 3-65 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:
 3-66 (a-1) A credential library established under this section
 3-67 must include the information included in the electronic tools or
 3-68 platforms developed by the coordinating board under Section
 3-69 61.09022(a), Education Code.

4-1 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4-2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4-3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4-4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4-5 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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