

AN ACT

relating to information regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities and workforce needs in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 7.040 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.040. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. (a) The agency shall prepare information comparing institutions of higher education in this state and post the information on the agency's Internet website. Information prepared under this section shall be given to a public school student who requests the information. The information shall:

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

(2) compare each institution of higher education with other institutions regarding:

(A) the relative cost of tuition;

(B) the retention rate of students;

(C) the graduation rate of students;

(D) the average student debt;

(E) the loan repayment rate of students; and

1 (F) the employment rate of students;

2 (3) identify the state's future workforce needs, as
3 projected by the Texas Workforce Commission; and

4 (4) include annual wage information for the top 10
5 highest demand jobs in this state, as identified by the Texas
6 Workforce Commission.

7 (b) The agency shall collaborate with the Texas Higher
8 Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission to
9 obtain the information required under Subsection (a). The agency
10 shall incorporate the use of existing materials and develop new
11 materials to be provided to counselors, students, and parents
12 regarding institutions of higher education.

13 (c) Each institution of higher education shall include on
14 its Internet website, in a prominent location that is not more than
15 three hyperlinks from the website's home page, a link to the
16 information posted on the agency's Internet website under
17 Subsection (a).

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
19 amended by adding Section 61.0907 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 61.0907. REPORT PROJECTING WORKFORCE NEEDS. (a) The
21 board, in conjunction with the Texas Workforce Commission and in
22 consultation with any other state agency as requested by the board
23 or the commission, shall collect relevant information and make
24 five-year projections concerning:

25 (1) the workforce needs of this state; and

26 (2) the educational attainment and training of persons
27 projected to enter the state workforce.

1 (b) Based on the projections made under Subsection (a), the
2 board shall identify the types and levels of education, training,
3 and skills that are needed to meet the state's future workforce
4 needs and shall make recommendations concerning the expansion of
5 existing programs or the development of new programs at public and
6 private postsecondary educational institutions in this state as
7 necessary to meet the projected workforce needs.

8 (c) A postsecondary educational institution may use the
9 recommendations made under Subsection (b) in planning for degree
10 programs, coursework offerings, and training programs.

11 (d) Not later than February 1, 2015, the board shall prepare
12 and submit electronically to each standing legislative committee
13 with primary jurisdiction over higher education or workforce
14 development, each public and private postsecondary educational
15 institution in this state, and the Texas Education Agency a report
16 of the information collected and analyzed under this section,
17 including recommendations of the board for programming at
18 postsecondary educational institutions. The board may provide
19 subsequent updates to the report as the board considers necessary.

20 (e) This section expires August 31, 2017.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1296 was passed by the House on April 11, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1296 on May 20, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 3 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1296 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 17, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor