



SUMMARY OF
**HIGHER EDUCATION
LEGISLATION**

87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
2021

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Agency Mission

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to provide leadership and coordination for Texas higher education and to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency through *60x30TX*, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.

Agency Vision

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

Agency Philosophy

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.

The THECB's core values are:

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and welcome every opportunity to educate stakeholders about our policies, decisions, and aspirations.

Efficiency: We accomplish our work using resources in the most effective manner.

Collaboration: We develop partnerships that result in student success and a highly qualified, globally competent workforce.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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INTRODUCTION



The 87th Texas Legislature met for its Regular Session in 2021 amidst unprecedented circumstances. Legislators began the session grappling with how to address the unique challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic disruption. Winter Storm Uri only added urgency and complexity to the decisions facing legislators.

Going into the 2021 legislative session, the state's economic recovery had become a key priority for lawmakers. There were also important resource and policy issues impacting Texas students and institutions of higher education. Lawmakers recognized the importance of higher education to our state and invested in key supports for students and institutions, and innovative policies to help drive the state's long-term economic competitiveness and resiliency.

This session, legislators filed more than 7,300 bills and resolutions, and 1,181 became law.

This document provides a summary overview of key higher education legislation from the 87th Texas Legislature that ultimately became law. It includes an analysis of higher education funding included in Senate Bill (SB) 1, the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2022-2023 and House Bill (HB) 2, the FY 2020-2021 supplemental appropriations bill. Due to the date of publication, it does not include any legislation adopted during special sessions of the 87th Legislature.

SUMMARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

2022-2023 BIENNIUM

During every regular legislative session, lawmakers must appropriate state funding for the coming biennium. The 87th Legislature passed two key pieces of appropriations-related legislation: SB 1, the General Appropriations Act (GAA), and HB 2, the supplemental appropriations bill.

SB 1 appropriated \$248.6 billion in All Funds for FY 2022-2023, a decrease of \$13.6 billion or 5.2% compared with FY 2020-2021. This decrease is primarily attributable to a \$15.5 billion decline in federal funding between the biennia. The FY 2022-2023 GAA appropriates \$116.4 billion in General Revenue (GR), an increase of \$6.1 billion or 5.5% compared with FY 2020-2021.

Overview of FY 2022-2023 General Revenue Budget

(in millions)

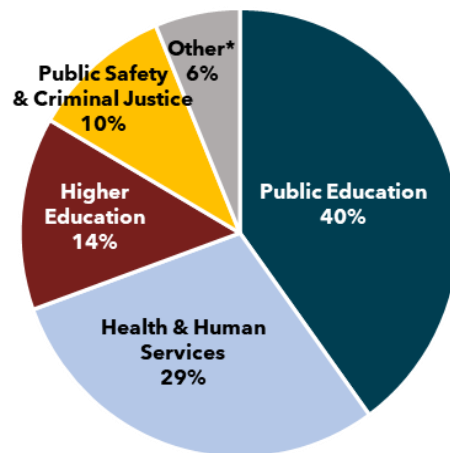
Article	FY20-21	FY22-23	Difference	Percent Difference
1 – General Government	\$3,977.4	\$4,064.3	\$86.9	2.2%
2 – Health & Human Services	\$33,629.6	\$34,291.4	\$661.8	2.0%
3 – Education	\$60,402.8	\$62,745.1	\$2,342.3	3.9%
<i>Public Education</i>	\$44,561.5	\$46,551.3	\$1,989.8	4.5%
<i>Higher Education</i>	\$15,841.3	\$16,193.8	\$352.5	2.2%
4 – Judiciary	\$553.8	\$551.6	(\$2.3)	(0.4%)
5 – Public Safety & Criminal Justice	\$11,869.5	\$12,055.0	\$185.5	1.6%
6 – Natural Resources	\$933.1	\$1,002.1	\$69.0	7.4%
7 – Business & Economic Development	\$520.9	\$490.1	(\$30.8)	(5.9%)
8 – Regulatory	\$367.8	\$301.7	(\$66.1)	(18.0%)
9 – General Provisions		\$456.8		
10 – Legislature	\$408.1	\$410.2	\$2.1	0.5%
House Bill 2		(\$2,393.4)		
Total	\$110,269.6	\$116,368.2	\$6,098.6	5.5%

Source: Legislative Budget Board

FY 2022-2023 budget highlights include the following:

- Full funding for provisions of HB 3 (86th Regular Session), including public education enrollment growth, and an additional \$464 million to fund “HB 3 clean up” legislation (HB 1525)
- Increased Teacher Retirement System (TRS) contribution rates
- \$8.4 billion in behavioral health funding across multiple state agencies
- \$123.5 million in additional funding for rural hospitals
- Salary increases for state law enforcement and correctional officers
- \$4.2 million to enhance the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and other Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) oversight activities in response to Winter Storm Uri
- \$35.4 million for auditable voting machines and training for county election officials
- \$3 billion in federal funding for disaster recovery related to Hurricane Harvey

General Appropriations by Article
FY 2022-2023



* The Other category includes General Revenue appropriations for General Government, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Business & Economic Development, Regulatory, General Provisions, and Legislature.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the state’s economy, state agencies were directed to propose 5% reductions to their FY 2020-2021 budgets. House Bill 2, the supplemental appropriations bill, implements many of these reductions and includes the biennial settle-up for the Foundation School Program (FSP) and an exchange of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for allowable agency salary costs. Between these reductions and new funding for various public safety and infrastructure items, overall GR appropriations for FY 2020-2021 were reduced by a net total of \$5.1 billion. The bill also provides \$531.1 million in new funding from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), or “Rainy Day Fund.”

Higher education related highlights from HB 2 include the following:

- \$123.7 million for Correctional Managed Health Care provided by health-related institutions
- \$271.2 million for the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Program
- \$60 million to the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) for up to eight regional storage and staging sites
- \$56.4 million to Texas Forest Service for natural disaster response
- \$45 million to Texas A&M University at Galveston for dock and other infrastructure improvements

FY 2022-2023 HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

The biennial All Funds budget for higher education decreased from \$24.3 billion in FY 2020-2021 to \$22.5 billion in FY 2022-2023, a decrease of \$1.8 billion or approximately 7.5%. This decrease is due to TDEM's receipt of \$2.7 billion in one-time COVID-19 federal funding in FY 2020-21. The GR budget for higher education increased from \$14.9 billion in FY 2020-2021 to \$15.7 billion in FY 2022-2023, an increase of \$792.8 million or approximately 5.3%.

FY 2022-23 General Revenue Appropriations for Higher Education

(in millions)

Sector	FY20-21	FY22-23 Art III	FY22-23 Art IX	FY22-23 Total	Difference	Percent Difference
General Academic Institutions/ System Offices	\$5,224.5	\$5,298.2	\$397.1	\$5,695.3	\$470.8	9.0%
Health Related Institutions	\$3,046.9	\$3,012.4	\$81.7	\$3,094.0	\$47.1	1.5%
A&M System Agencies	\$441.0	\$380.0	\$22.8	\$402.7	(\$38.3)	(8.7%)
Two Year Institutions	\$2,134.3	\$2,161.5	\$6.0	\$2,167.5	\$33.2	1.6%
THECB	\$1,563.5	\$1,810.7	\$5.4	\$1,816.2	\$252.7	16.2%
Higher Ed Group Insurance	\$1,412.3	\$1,423.1	-	\$1,423.1	\$10.8	0.8%
Optional Retirement Program	\$243.2	\$259.7	-	\$259.7	\$16.5	6.8%
Higher Education Fund	\$787.5	\$787.5	-	\$787.5	-	0.0%
Hazelwood Legacy Program	\$28.5	\$28.5	-	\$28.5	-	0.0%
Total	\$14,881.7	\$15,161.6	\$513.0	\$15,674.5	\$792.8	5.3%

Note: These amounts do not include the higher education portion of retirement or social security benefits, which are included in the SB 1 general revenue table at the beginning of the appropriations section of this report.

For institutions of higher education, the funding formulas represent the largest proportion of state support. Other institutional funding includes non-formula support items and certain research and capital funding. The FY 2022-2023 GAA includes the following formula funding provisions:

General Academic Institutions

The general academic institutions (GAI) Instruction and Operations (I&O) formula received an additional \$300 million in GR to account for growth, however the I&O rate still decreased to \$55.66 (from \$55.85) per weighted semester credit hour. SB 1 held the Infrastructure Support formula at the FY 2020-2021 rate of \$5.47 per predicted square foot.

State and Technical Colleges

For state and technical colleges, the I&O formula received an additional \$16.6 million in GR, increasing the rate for the Lamar State Colleges to \$7.20 (from \$5.12) per contact hour. The Texas State Technical College "Returned Value" formula received an additional \$7.6 million in GR, however the percentage decreased slightly to 35.9% (from 36.0%).

Community Colleges

For community colleges, SB 1 maintained the Core Operations funding at \$1.4 million per institution. While no new funding was added to increase formula rates, overall contact hours decreased, and \$86.5 million was reallocated from the Contact Hour formula to the Success Point formula. This resulted in an increased Contact Hour rate of \$2.84 (from \$2.72) and an increased Success Point rate of \$247.91 (from \$202.53).

In addition to this reallocation of funding, Success Point weights were adjusted as follows:

- Points per successful completion of first 30 semester credit hours increased from 1.0 to 1.5;
- Points per student transfer to a GAI increased from 2.0 to 3.0;
- Points per degree or certificate awarded in a field other than a critical field decreased from 2.0 to 1.2; and
- Points per degree awarded in a critical field increased from 2.25 to 3.25.

Health-Related Institutions

SB 1 appropriated an additional \$80 million in GR for health-related institutions (HRIs) to maintain most formula rates at FY 2020-2021 levels. HRI formula funding rates are as follows:

- Instruction and Operations (I&O): \$9,622 per full-time student equivalent;
- Infrastructure: \$6.14 per predicted square foot;
- Graduate Medical Education (GME): \$5,970 per medical resident; and
- Research Enhancement formula decreased to 1.17% from 1.18%.

Most Texas public health-related institutions now have mission specific funding formulas. GR funding for both the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Operations formula and The University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center at Tyler Chest Disease Center formula was held to FY 2020-2021 appropriated amounts, resulting in rate decreases. While funding for the UT Medical Branch at Galveston's Health System Operations formula increased slightly due to the transfer of certain clinic funding from the UT Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, its rate actually decreased from FY 2020-2021 levels due to an increase in patient encounters.

The Performance-Based Research Operations formulas created by the 86th Legislature for UT Southwestern, UT Health Science Center at Houston, and UT Health Science Center at San Antonio were held to FY 2020-2021 GR funding levels and made permanent. For FY 2022-2023, the Legislature reallocated certain special item funding to create a new Border Health Operations formula at the TTU Health Sciences Center at El Paso and new Performance-Based Research Operations formulas at the following institutions:

- Texas A&M University Health Science Center;
- University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth; and
- Texas Tech University (TTU) Health Science Center.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD FUNDING

SB 1 included an important change to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) budget through a restructuring of the agency's goals and strategies. Over the years, the THECB budget had grown to 54 separate strategies spread across nine different goals, creating administrative challenges and limiting agency flexibility.

For the FY 2022-2023 biennium, the THECB bill pattern now comprises 32 strategies across seven goals. Most of the agency's administrative strategies have been consolidated into a single "Agency Operations" strategy. Additional consolidations were made for the agency's college readiness and success programs and loan repayment programs. This restructuring will improve efficiency and provide greater capacity to respond to dynamic needs and priorities.

FY 2022-2023 Funding for Major THECB Programs

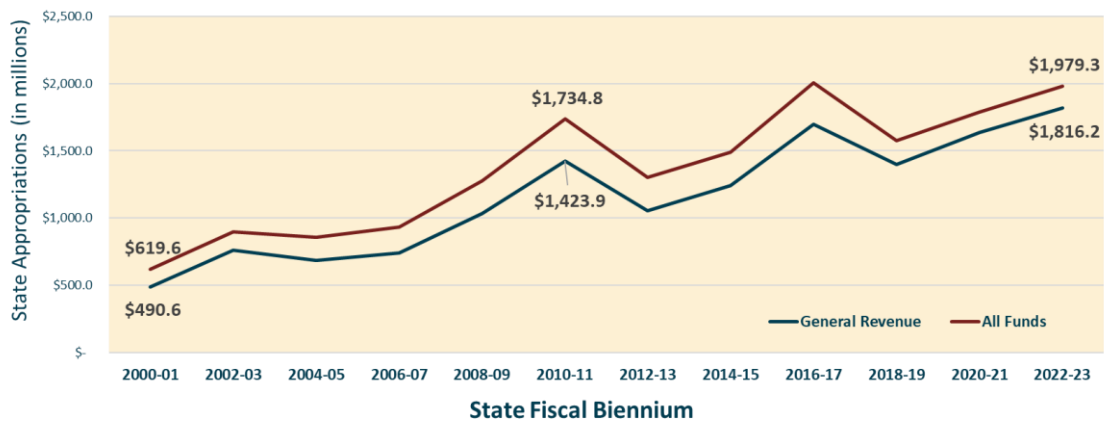
(in millions)

Program	FY20-21	FY22-23	Difference	Percent Difference
TEXAS Grants*	\$866.4	\$950.1	\$83.7	9.7%
TEOG – Community Colleges*	\$88.5	\$97.0	\$8.5	9.6%
TEOG – State/Technical Colleges*	\$7.5	\$8.2	\$0.7	9.6%
Tuition Equalization Grants*	\$178.6	\$195.8	\$17.2	9.6%
Graduate Medical Education Expansion	\$157.2	\$199.1	\$41.9	26.6%
Nursing Shortage Reduction Program	\$19.9	\$18.9	(\$1.0)	(5.0%)
Joint Admission Medical Program	\$10.2	\$9.7	(\$0.5)	(5.0%)
Child Mental Health Care Consortium	\$99.0	\$118.5	\$19.5	19.7%
Texas OnCourse	-	\$9.5	\$9.5	-

* Amounts listed for these programs include an estimated distribution of the additional \$110 million appropriated for the student financial aid programs.

THECB State Appropriations

FY 2000-2001 through FY 2022-2023



The THECB's All Funds appropriations increased from \$1.79 billion in FY 2020-2021 to \$1.97 billion in FY 2022-2023, an increase of \$184.8 million or approximately 10%. Most of this increase can be attributed to three major program areas:

- In addition to restoring the 5% reduction to the state's major need-based student financial aid programs (\$57.5 million), SB 1 provides an additional \$110 million for TEXAS Grants, Tuition Equalization Grants (TEG), and Texas Equal Opportunity Grants (TEOG). This funding is intended to maintain the same percentage of eligible students served compared to FY 2020-2021.
- SB 1 provides an additional \$48.6 million for Graduate Medical Education (GME) Expansion. This increase both restores the 5% reduction (\$6.7 million) to the program, and provides the funding needed to maintain the required 1.1 to 1 ratio of first-year residency positions to medical school graduates.

- SB 1 provides an additional \$10 million for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium plus an estimated \$9.4 million in unexpended balances from the program in FY 2020-2021.

SB 1 also includes \$749,000 to fund the agency's upcoming move to the Capitol Complex, and \$9.5 million to reflect the transfer of the Texas OnCourse program from The University of Texas at Austin to the THECB.

State agencies and institutions of higher education must submit biennial budget proposals, known as Legislative Appropriations Requests (LAR), before the start of each legislative session. These proposals may include Exceptional Item Requests for additional funding for new or existing initiatives. For the 87th Legislature, the THECB requested five exceptional items totaling \$193.7 million. Including federal funding directed for two initiatives, funding was provided for each of the five exceptional items for a total of \$182.2 million.

FY 2022-2023 THECB Exceptional Item Requests

Exceptional Item	Request	Funding
Restoration of 5% Reductions	\$74.5 million	\$63.5 million (Student Financial Aid and GME Expansion)
Student Financial Aid	\$110 million	\$110 million (for TEXAS Grants, TEOG, and TEG)
GradTX – Reskilling & Upskilling	\$4 million	\$4 million from Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund*
Data Security & Accessibility	\$4 million	\$4 million from Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund*
Capitol Complex Move	\$1.2 million	\$749,000
TOTAL	\$193.7 million	\$182.2 million

* Funding for these items was allocated by Governor Abbott in June 2021 from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. These amounts are not listed in the FY 2022-23 General Appropriations Act.

KEY RIDERS

SB 1 includes several changes or additions to riders in the THECB bill pattern. Riders are provisions included in the budget to provide specific instructions to agencies regarding the expenditure or collection of funds.

Student Loan Program (Rider 5). As requested by the agency, changes to this rider, which appropriates student loan program funds to the agency, allow the THECB to exclude full-time equivalents (FTEs) that are paid exclusively from this source of funding from the calculation of the agency's FTE cap.

Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (Rider 27). As requested by the agency, changes to the rider for the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (NSRP) incorporate recommendations from the study required under the rider in FY 2020-2021, including consolidation of the three existing programs into a single program based on increases in graduates. The rider also requires the THECB to provide recommendations to the 88th Legislature on how to best incorporate quality metrics and weighting into the program.

AdviseTX Reporting Requirement (Rider 47). As requested by the agency, the annual reporting date for AdviseTX has been moved from October 1 to January 1. This change better aligns the reporting requirement with the THECB's quarterly meeting schedule.

Informational Listing: College Readiness and Success (Rider 52). As part of the THECB's budget restructure, this rider provides additional detail on new Strategy A.1.3, College Readiness and Success, and the allocation of funding for the programs included within it.

Texas OnCourse Program (Rider 53). As requested by the agency, this new rider reflects the transfer of Texas OnCourse from The University of Texas at Austin to the THECB and requires the agency to continue to expand the program and its offerings for educators, students, and parents. The rider also authorizes the agency to contract with the Texas Higher Education Foundation to potentially license or otherwise commercialize resources developed under the program.

GME Expansion Administration (Rider 54). This new rider requires the THECB to consider the timing of the GME Expansion grant application and award process, including the time needed for new residency positions to become accredited and to be included in the National Resident Matching Program's annual match process.

Contingency for SB 1888 (Rider 55). SB 1888 creates the Texas First scholarship program for early high school graduates. This associated rider requires the THECB to implement the program using funds appropriated to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) through the Foundation School Program. SB 1888 provides a process by which TEA will transfer such funds to the agency.

Informational Listing: Educational Loan Repayment Programs (Rider 56). As part of the THECB's budget restructure, this rider provides additional detail on new Strategy C.1.3, Educational Loan Repayment Programs, and the allocation of funding for the programs included within it.

Student Financial Aid (Rider 57). This new rider requires the THECB to allocate the additional \$110 million provided for student financial aid programs between TEXAS Grants, TEG, and TEOG.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HB 33 **RELATING TO MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE AWARD OF POSTSECONDARY COURSE CREDIT LEADING TO WORKFORCE CREDENTIALING BASED ON MILITARY EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING AND TO PREPARE VETERANS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES**

Author: Dominguez

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 33 expands the requirement for public institutions of higher education to award a student course credit for completion of certain military training to include credit toward a certificate. The bill also requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to evaluate and post on its website programs of study or courses offered by career schools or colleges leading to industry-based certifications or other workforce credentials, for which skills obtained through military experience, education, and training frequently align. In determining whether to approve a career school or college, the TWC must require the school or college to award students course credit for skills that are aligned.

HB 33 also creates the Energy Industry Program for Veteran Professional Development to be developed and administered by the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC). The program shall provide assistance to veterans seeking a certification or training for employment in the energy industry. The TVC, in coordination with the General Land Office and Veterans' Land Board, shall conduct an outreach campaign to encourage veterans to participate in the program.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 51.3041(b), and Labor Code 302.0031(a) and 302.0031(a)
 Adds Education Code 132.026 and 132.055(c), Government Code 434.027, and Labor Code 302.0031(i)

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

HB 700 **RELATING TO THE PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIVING PROGRAM AND OTHER SERVICES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN TRANSITIONING TO INDEPENDENT LIVING**

Author: Johnson, Jarvis

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 700 requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to address barriers for youth with disabilities to participate in the Preparation for Adult Living Program. The DFPS is directed to coordinate with the THECB to establish a work group to develop a plan to ensure foster youth who complete the standardized curriculum for the Preparation for Adult Living Program are eligible to receive college credit for completing the program. The work group must include representatives from urban and rural institutions of higher education. DFPS is required to share the plan with the Legislature by November 1, 2022.

Note: HB 700 makes additional changes that do not impact higher education and are not included in this summary.

Code Reference: Amends Family Code 264.121(a-6)
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): College Readiness and Success, Workforce Education

HB 885 **RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD TO OFFER BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Author: Harris

Sponsor: Birdwell

HB 885 creates an exception from the taxable property valuation requirement that a community college district must meet to be eligible to offer a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The bill is bracketed to community colleges that have a taxable property valuation of at least \$4 billion and do not have a four-year institution of higher education located in a county in which the district is located.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 130.307(b)
Adds Education Code 130.307(b-1)
Effective Date: June 15, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs, Workforce Education

HB 981 **RELATING TO A STUDY BY THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

Author: Dutton

Sponsor: Miles

HB 981 requires the THECB to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a religious studies program that offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at Texas Southern University. The THECB shall submit to each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education and the board of regents of Texas Southern University a report on the results of the study by December 1, 2022.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 61.06695
Effective Date: June 15, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs, General Counsel

HB 3348 **RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS CERTAIN PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGES MAY OFFER**

Author: Pacheco

Sponsor: Creighton

HB 3348 sets the number of baccalaureate programs that may be offered by an eligible community college at no more than five at any time. Previously, most eligible community colleges were limited to no more than three baccalaureate programs, with only four specific community colleges permitted to offer up to five.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 130.306(a)
 Removes Education Code 130.306(b)

Effective Date: June 16, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs, Workforce Education

HB 4202 **RELATING TO ACCESS BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO THE TEXSHARE LIBRARY CONSORTIUM**

Author: Rose

Sponsor: West

HB 4202 would allow a federal work college (as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1087-58) to participate in the TexShare Library Consortium, a resource-sharing consortium operated by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for libraries at institutions of higher education and for public libraries, libraries of nonprofit corporations, and other types of libraries. This change would allow Paul Quinn College to participate in the consortium.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 441.221

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Digital Learning

SB 1227 **RELATING TO THE GRANTING OF UNDERGRADUATE COURSE CREDIT AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN SCORES ON EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM**

Author: Taylor

Sponsor: Metcalf

SB 1227 states that an institution of higher education may not require a score on the College-Level Examination Program examination greater than the minimum recommended by the American Council on Education in awarding course credit for a lower-division course. The act provides an exception if the institution's chief academic officer determines, based on

evidence, that a higher score is necessary to indicate that a student is sufficiently prepared for a more advanced course for which the lower-division course is a prerequisite.

The requirement applies to entering freshmen students at public institutions of higher education beginning with the 2022 spring semester.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 51.968(c-2)

Effective Date: June 14, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

CAMPUS SAFETY AND POLICIES

SB 741 **RELATING TO THE CARRYING OR STORAGE OF A HANDGUN BY A SCHOOL MARSHAL**

Author: Birdwell

Sponsor: Sanford

SB 741 authorizes a school marshal at a public, charter, or private school or public junior college to carry a concealed handgun, in the manner provided by written regulations adopted by the school or college's governing body. Such regulations must provide that a school marshal may carry a concealed handgun on his or her person or possess the handgun on the premises in a locked and secured safe or other locked and secured location.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 37.0811(c), (d), and (e)

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

SB 1371 **RELATING TO THE REPORTING OF CERTAIN INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT, DATING VIOLENCE, OR STALKING AT CERTAIN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Huffman

Sponsor: Murphy

SB 1371 requires that, should an alleged victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking at an institution of higher education choose to make a report using a pseudonym, a report made by a campus peace officer shall state only the type of incident reported and shall not include the victim's name, phone number, address, or other identifying information.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 51.252

Effective Date: June 6, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

HEALTH RELATED

HB 1325 **RELATING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON AND THE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AT SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE JOINT ADMISSIONS MEDICAL PROGRAM**

Author: Coleman

Sponsor: Miles

HB 1325 makes the University of Houston medical school and the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Sam Houston State University eligible for the Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP).

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 51.821(4)
Effective Date: May 15, 2021
Appropriation: HB 1325 makes no appropriation. SB 1 includes \$9.7 million for JAMP.

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

HB 2509 **RELATING TO MEASURES TO SUPPORT OR ENHANCE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR THE PRACTICE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN THIS STATE**

Author: Lucio, III

Sponsor: Hinojosa

HB 2509 expands the definition of “graduate medical education program” to include a nationally accredited post-doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM) program that prepares podiatrists for independent practice in the specialty area of podiatry. This could qualify such programs for participation in graduate medical education grant programs authorized under Education Code Chapter 58A.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 58A.001(5)
Effective Date: June 14, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

SB 1251 **RELATING TO AUTHORIZING OF JOINT DEGREES FOR CERTAIN GRADUATE PROGRAMS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS M.D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER**

Author: Miles

Sponsor: Johnson, Ann

SB 1251 allows the board of regents of The University of Texas System to offer certain joint graduate degree programs at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Such programs must be separately established at the health science center and related to the broad fields encompassed in population and public health. The consolidated degree programs would be subject to THECB review and approval.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 73.102(b)

Effective Date: May 28, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

SB 1856 **RELATING TO CERTAIN VOCATIONAL NURSING STUDENTS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING A DECLARED STATE OF DISASTER**

Author: Powell

Sponsor: Klick

SB 1856 declares that the services provided by a Licensed Vocational Nursing student in a licensed facility are allowed at all times in this state, including during a declared state of disaster. It allows a licensed facility to require a student to comply with the facility's policies regarding health screenings or the use of personal protective equipment, and to condition the student's provision of services on compliance with its policies.

Code Reference: Adds Health and Safety Code, Chapter 242, Subchapter T

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

FINANCIAL AID

HB 1259 **RELATING TO THE RURAL VETERINARIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Author: Darby

Sponsor: Seliger

HB 1259 transfers the administration of the rural veterinarian incentive program from Texas A&M University to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). The program allows veterinarians in rural areas to receive funds to reduce their student loan debt through the rural veterinarian incentive program if funding is made available. Financial support to a program participant is dependent on satisfying certain conditions and a participant must repay the amount of the financial support if the participant does not satisfy the conditions. A person enrolled as a student in an accredited college of veterinary medicine located out of state may apply to the rural veterinarian incentive program if the student graduated from a Texas high school or general academic institution. The THECB administers the program account to aid in the repayment of student loans for eligible veterinarians who apply and qualify for assistance under the rules of the Texas Animal Health Commission. The bill also expands the rural veterinarian incentive program committee to include representation from each university system with an accredited college of veterinary medicine, appointed by the board of regents of each university system.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code, Chapter 56, Subchapter G and Chapter 61, Subchapter OO
Transfers Education Code, Sections 88.621 through 88.6276 to Chapter 56, Subchapter G, and Chapter 61, Subchapter OO
Repeals Education Code Chapter 88, Subchapter I

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: No funding was appropriated. A contingency rider was adopted to authorize the THECB and TAHC to use funds in the account for administration of the program. The account may accept private gifts and donations.

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Student Financial Aid Programs

SB 702 **RELATING TO THE CONTINUATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PREPAID HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION BOARD**

Author: Paxton

Sponsor: Paddie

SB 702 is the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board's sunset legislation. The Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board administers tax-advantaged prepaid college tuition and savings plans and programs created by the Education Code, Chapter 54. The board falls within the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

The legislation follows the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendations regarding the continuation and functions of the board through September 1, 2033. It amends provisions regarding board member training and complaint tracking and authorizes the board to appoint advisory committees in rule, as necessary.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 54.603, 54.610, 54.617(e)
Adds Education Code 54.6181
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): N/A

SB 1019 **RELATING TO A REQUIREMENT FOR THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD TO REPORT CERTAIN STUDENT LOAN DATA**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Turner, John

SB 1019 requires the THECB to include in its annual Report on Student Financial Aid in Texas certain data regarding student loan borrowers. Specifically, the report must include a breakdown of student loan data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, degree type, and enrollment status. The THECB is to include an explanation of any limitation on the scope and the accuracy of the data in the report.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 61.07764
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division(s): Student Financial Aid Programs

SB 1860 **RELATING TO CREATING AN ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SYSTEM FOR STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Author: Powell

Sponsor: Neave

SB 1860 changes the existing statutory requirement that the THECB make available an electronic version of the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) for applications submitted for the 2022-2023 academic year. Specifically, the act delays the implementation of the requirement to the 2023-2024 academic year to align with a change in federal financial aid applications to take place that year.

Code Reference: Amends Section 2, Chapter 801 (HB 2140), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None
THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): College Readiness and Success

SB 1888**RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND ENROLLMENT AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Parker

SB 1888 establishes the Texas First Early High School Completion Program, to allow public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school, and the Texas First Scholarship, to provide financial aid for students who graduate through the program. The purpose of these programs is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high-performing students at eligible institutions.

The TEA, in consultation with the THECB, shall establish the Texas First Early High School Completion Program. The THECB, in consultation with TEA and institutions, will establish the standards for determining early readiness for college. A student who earns a high school diploma through the program is considered to have earned a distinguished level of achievement and may apply for admission to an institution of higher education for the first semester after he or she earns a diploma through the program. School districts and open-enrollment charter schools are required to inform entering students regarding this option, and TEA and the THECB will post on their websites a publication for informing students.

The THECB will establish the Texas First Scholarship Program. To be eligible for an award, a student must be a resident of Texas as determined by THECB rules, have graduated early from high school under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program, and comply with certain financial aid application requirements. A student who graduates from high school two or more semesters early receives a credit equal to the maximum annual TEXAS grant award for the applicable academic year. A student who graduates less than two semesters early receives a credit for half that amount. The credit may be used at any Texas research or emerging research university toward the student's costs of attendance and expires at the end of the first academic year after graduation.

The THECB is required to submit an annual report to the commissioner of education regarding state credit awarded under the program during the preceding academic year.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 28.0253

Adds Education Code 48.2642

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: Yes

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead THECB Division(s): College Readiness and Success

FUNDING

SB 480 **RELATING TO THE STUDENT UNION FEE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

Author: Miles

Sponsor: Coleman

SB 480 expands the purposes for which the University of Houston may expend funds collected through the Student Union Fee to include providing programming at the student union building. The authors and University of Houston witnesses indicated that the legislation would assist the institution in providing increased mental health services to students.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 54.526(a)

Effective Date: June 7, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Funding

SB 959 **RELATING TO STUDENT SUCCESS-BASED FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CERTAIN CONTINUING WORKFORCE EDUCATION COURSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGES**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Romero

SB 959 requires the THECB, in making its biennial recommendations to the Legislature regarding community college Student Success Point funding, to include success measures achieved by students in qualified continuing workforce education courses. This is to be done in the manner and to the extent the board considers appropriate and in consultation with community colleges.

A continuing workforce education course is considered qualified if it is consistent with the role and mission of a public junior college and prepares students with skills necessary to attain workforce credentials or employment in a specific high-demand occupation – regardless of whether the course is part of a recognized sequence of courses that requires a specific number of contact hours or leads to a certificate or degree.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 61.0593(f-1)

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Funding

SB 1102 **RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEXAS RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING THROUGH EDUCATION INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT WORKFORCE EDUCATION AT PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGES**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Parker

SB 1102 establishes the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling Through Education (TRUE) Program as a new grant administered by the THECB. The purpose of TRUE is to make grant awards to eligible entities for creating, redesigning, or expanding workforce training programs that lead to industry certifications or other workforce credentials in high-demand occupations and create pathways to employment. Eligible recipients are Texas public community, state, and technical colleges, as well as institutions, local chambers of commerce, trade associations, or economic development corporations that partner with these institutions.

In making awards, the THECB shall, to the greatest extent practicable, award at least one grant in each region of the state and ensure that awarded programs match regional workforce needs, are supported by a labor market analysis, and do not duplicate existing program offerings except as necessary to accommodate demand. A grant may be used only for the support of educational and general activities that promote workforce learning, including: developing new or redesigning existing certifications and certificate programs that can be completed in six months or less; increasing "stackable" certifications and credentials in high-demand occupations; providing student aid awards; and tracking and reporting student enrollment, credential completion, and employment outcomes.

The bill also requires the THECB to identify new high-demand credentials needed for high-demand occupations, to establish the collection and reporting of data concerning these credentials, and to include consideration of such credentials in its biennial formula funding recommendations the Legislature.

The THECB is required to implement the act only if the Legislature appropriates money specifically for this purpose.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code, Chapter 61, Subchapter T-2
Effective Date: June 14, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

SB 1230 **RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE FINANCE**

Author: Taylor

Sponsor: Pacheco

SB 1230 establishes the Texas Commission on Community College Finance to make recommendations to the 88th Legislature regarding state formula funding and funding levels for public junior colleges. In making recommendations, the commission shall examine trend and forecast data, seek stakeholder input, and account for equity in student outcomes. The commission may examine and make recommendations on other policy and finance matters, including workforce demand and skills gaps, dual credit programs and costs, variation

between taxing districts and services areas, student graduation, transfer, and success metrics, and the relationship between economic cycles and student enrollment.

The 12 members of the commission are to be appointed by the governor (4), the lieutenant governor (3), the speaker of the House (3), the board of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (1), and the board of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (1). The governor shall designate the presiding officer of the commission.

The commission may seek support from the THECB, the Texas Association of Community Colleges, and research organizations. It may also accept gifts, grants, and donations to carry out its functions. The commission's final report and recommendations are due no later than November 1, 2022.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 130.1305
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Funding

SB 1295 **RELATING TO STATE SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Morrison

SB 1295 provides for an outcomes-based funding model for comprehensive regional universities, identified in the bill as institutions of higher education designated as comprehensive, doctoral, or master's universities under the THECB accountability system.

The act provides that, subject to the availability of appropriations, an eligible institution is entitled to receive both a base amount of \$500,000 (or greater if provided by appropriation) and \$1,000 (or greater if provided by appropriation) for each at-risk student awarded a degree by the institution, based on the average of the three state fiscal years preceding the relevant biennium. An "at-risk student" is defined as an undergraduate student who scored below the national mean on the SAT or ACT assessments or has previously received a federal Pell Grant.

The THECB, in consultation with a representative group of eligible institutions, is directed to conduct a study to determine the method of funding's effectiveness in allocating state funds fairly and equitably and promoting student success at eligible institutions. The report is due to the governor and Legislative Budget Board no later than September 1, 2022.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 62.003(1)
Adds Education Code, Chapter 62, Subchapter I
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division(s): Funding

**SB 1531 RELATING TO FORMULA FUNDING FOR EXCESS UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT HOURS AT
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TO THE TUITION RATE THAT MAY BE
CHARGED FOR THOSE CREDIT HOURS**

Author: West

Sponsor: Turner, Chris

SB 1531 amends statutes regarding limitations on the number of semester credit hours (SCHs) an undergraduate student may take in excess of degree requirements. The legislation adds a new requirement that a student who is in excess of 15 SCHs beyond an associate degree's requirements could be charged an additional amount of tuition not to exceed the nonresident tuition rate. Existing statute applies a similar limitation of 30 SCHs for baccalaureate students. For this purpose, a student not enrolled in a degree program is considered to be in a baccalaureate program.

The act also provides that an institution of higher education may not receive state formula funding for SCHs generated beyond the excess-hour threshold for an associate degree. Baccalaureate degrees were already subject to this requirement.

The changes in the legislation apply for students first enrolling in an associate degree program for the 2023 fall semester or later.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 54.014 and 61.0595(a) and (b)
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Funding

INSTITUTIONAL/GOVERNANCE CHANGES

HB 1522 RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY TO THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, TO CERTAIN FEES CHARGED BY THAT SYSTEM'S GOVERNING BOARD, AND TO MANDATORY VENUE FOR ACTIONS BROUGHT AGAINST THAT SYSTEM OR ITS INSTITUTIONS, OFFICERS, OR EMPLOYEES

Author: Frank

Sponsor: Springer

HB 1522 establishes Midwestern State University as a component institution of the Texas Tech University System. The bill also revises certain student fees and venue for certain lawsuits for the Texas Tech University System.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code, Chapter 109, Subchapter E, 54.509(a-1) and (e), 55.17893, and 109.005
 Adds Labor Code 501.022(g)
 Amends Education Code 54.509 (a) and (b), 55.13(c), and 62.021(a)
 Amends Government Code 1232.101(a)
 Amends Labor Code 501.022(a)
 Repeals Education Code 54.241(h), 54.5082, 54.518, 54.5441, 54.5442, 55.1727, 55.1737, 55.1757, 55.1787, and Chapter 103
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs, Data Analysis, Funding

SB 884 RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF A MULTI-INSTITUTION HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER IN THE CITY OF LAREDO

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Raymond

SB 884 reestablishes the Regional Campus at Laredo – previously a satellite campus operated by The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio– as a multi-institution center overseen by The University of Texas System. The legislation defines the primary purpose of the center as hosting educational activities, conducting and facilitating research, and engaging in community outreach. Component institutions of the UT system may use the center in accordance with this purpose.

The UT System Board of Regents may assign management of the center to a component institution of the system. The bill also repeals a provision in statute that previously made the campus subject to supervision by the THECB.

The bill makes several additional conforming changes in the Education Code to reflect the change in status.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 74.701-74.704 and 63.102(c)
 Repeals Education Code 74.705
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking:	Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement:	No
Lead THECB Division(s):	Academic and Health Affairs

SB 1126 **RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Author: Springer

Sponsor: Stucky

SB 1126 creates the Texas Woman's University System as a woman-focused university system composed of Texas Woman's University (TWU) and any other institution assigned by law to the governance, control, jurisdiction, and management of the board of regents of the system.

The act charges the system to prepare and submit a report on the transition of the TWU branch locations at Dallas and Houston to component institutions of the system. The report must include a strategy for each branch location to attain accreditation and for improvement and expansion of facilities that does not include the use of additional state funding. It must also identify proposed degree programs to be offered by each branch location that will meet the requirements for approval by the THECB. The report is due to the governor and Legislature by December 1, 2022.

The act identifies Texas Woman's University at Dallas and Texas Woman's University at Houston as general academic teaching institutions under the management and control of the system's board of regents. However, each may operate as a general academic teaching institution only after the THECB certifies that it is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and has been approved by the board to offer one or more degree programs. Until then, they may operate as branch campuses.

The act makes numerous confirming changes in the Education Code to reflect the changed status of TWU.

Code Reference:	Amends Education Code, Chapter 107 Adds Education Code 107.47 and Subchapters F, G, and H.
Effective Date:	May 26, 2021
Appropriation:	None

THECB Rulemaking:	No
THECB Reporting Requirement:	No
Lead THECB Division(s):	Academic and Health Affairs

SB 1467 **RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TO STUDENT FEES IMPOSED BY THE UNIVERSITY, AND TO THE ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE STATUTORY REFERENCES IN RELATION TO THE UNIVERSITY**

Author: Hinojosa

Sponsor: Canales

SB 1467 makes conforming changes by removing references to The University of Texas at Brownsville (UT-Brownsville) and The University of Texas Pan American (UT-Pan American) in

statutes and replacing them with references to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV).

The act clarifies the applicability of and makes changes to several student fees that had been associated with UT-Brownsville and UT-Pan American. It clarifies that UTRGV can collect a student union facilities fee, sports recreation and wellness fee, and intercollegiate athletic fee that has been authorized for the previous institutions. It makes various adjustments to fee amounts and permissible uses of funds.

The changes made by the act first apply to the 2021 fall semester.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 51.9246
Effective Date: May 30, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Funding

SB 1490 **RELATING TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY OR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION REGARDING PROFESSIONAL DEGREES**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Turner, Chris

SB 1490 prohibits the THECB from approving a certificate of authorization for any institution offering a professional degree except to the extent allowed for an authorized institution operating under a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Certificates of authorization are sought by accredited private postsecondary institutions and out-of-state public postsecondary institutions seeking to offer degrees and courses leading to degrees at a location in Texas. Professional degrees are defined as the Doctor of Medicine (MD), Osteopathy (DO), Dental Surgery (DDS), and Veterinary Medicine (DVM), as well as the Juris Doctor (JD) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB).

The act also prohibits the THECB from approving a certificate of authority (issued to institutions pursuing accreditation from a THECB-approved accreditor) for an institution that wishes to offer credits toward a professional degree, unless THECB determines that existing degree programs are insufficient to meet current market needs; the institution has the necessary faculty and resources to ensure student success; sufficient placements are available to students for required field-based experience, such as clinicals or clerkships; and the institution meets the same standard for approval and all academic criteria applicable to similar professional degree programs at other institutions in the state.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 61.303 and 61.306
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

STUDENT INFORMATION

HB 1027 **RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING COURSE MATERIALS BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Parker

Sponsor: Creighton

HB 1027 requires public institutions of higher education to disclose certain information regarding course schedules and lists of required and recommended course materials. The bill also requires private or independent institutions of higher education to disseminate certain course and textbook information. These provisions apply beginning with the 2022 fall semester.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 51.4521 and 51.451(4-b)
 Amends Education Code 51.451(4) and 51.452
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Digital Learning

SB 165 **RELATING TO AN EXCEPTION TO DROPPED COURSE LIMITATIONS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR COURSES DROPPED DURING A DISASTER THAT RESULTS IN A BAR OR LIMIT ON IN-PERSON COURSE ATTENDANCE**

Author: Blanco

Sponsor: Fierro

SB 165 specifies that a disaster declared by the governor resulting in a bar or limit on in-person course attendance constitutes "good cause" for an institution to allow a student to exceed the statutory limitation permitting no more than six dropped courses during their enrollment. The act also specifies that a course dropped by a student during the 2020 spring semester or summer term or the 2020-2021 academic year due to a bar or limitation on in-person attendance because of the COVID-19 pandemic may not count toward the number of courses permitted to be dropped.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 51.907
Effective Date: June 14, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Funding, Academic and Health Affairs

SB 279**RELATING TO THE INCLUSION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION INFORMATION ON CERTAIN STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Hinojosa

Sponsor: Bucy

SB 279 requires that student identification cards issued to public school students in grade six or higher, and to all students at institutions of higher education, include contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line. Such cards may optionally include contact information for local suicide prevention hotlines as well as campus security and health services. The requirement applies only to cards issued after the effective date of the act.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 38.353
Amends Education Code 51.91941
Effective Date: June 14, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

SB 937**RELATING TO AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A STUDENT CALLED TO REQUIRED MILITARY SERVICE**

Author: Campbell

Sponsor: Tinderholt

SB 937 modifies statutes regarding an excused absence from higher education for military service to replace the phrase "active" military service with "required" military service. This clarifies the scope of the statute to include service that is required of servicemen and women but may not be uniformly interpreted as "active duty," such as state active duty orders, inactive drill time, and time served during annual training.

The change applies beginning with the fall 2021 semester.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 51.9111
Effective Date: June 4, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

TRI-AGENCY INITIATIVES

HB 619 **RELATING TO DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN TO SUPPORT THE CHILDCARE WORKFORCE**

Author: Thompson, Senfronia

Sponsor: Alvarado

HB 619 requires the TWC, in consultation with a workgroup, to prepare a strategic plan for improving the quality of the infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age childcare workforce in the state. The plan must include specific recommendations, including recommendations for public and private institutions of higher education to increase the use of articulation agreements with school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, and to assist in the education and training of childcare workers. The TWC is required to update the strategic plan every three years and submit the plan to the governor, lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House of Representatives.

Code Reference: Adds Labor Code Section 302.0062
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

HB 626 **RELATING TO THE EXPANSION OF THE TEXAS INNOVATIVE ADULT CAREER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING JOB TRAINING TO VETERANS**

Author: Rosenthal

Sponsor: Zaffirini

The Texas Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program provides grants to eligible nonprofit workforce intermediary and job training organizations. ACE funds are used to develop, support, or expand programs that prepare low-income students to enter careers in high-demand and high-earning occupations. HB 626 expands ACE by including eligible nonprofit organizations providing job training to veterans as grant recipients. The bill outlines specific eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations. Specifically, to be eligible for a grant, a nonprofit organization providing job training services must provide to veterans, in partnership with public community colleges, public state colleges, or public technical institutes, job training and a continuum of services designed to move a program participant from application to employment, including outreach, assessment, support services, and career placement.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code Section 136.001(5) and 136.006(a-1)
 Amends Education Code 136.005 and 136.006(b)
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: SB 1 appropriates \$4.3 million to Austin Community College to
 administer the program during the 2022-2023 biennium.

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

HB 773 **RELATING TO INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

Author: VanDeaver

Sponsor: Powell

Texas school districts and high school campuses are evaluated based on certain domains of indicators of achievement in the public school accountability system. HB 773 adds an indicator in the student achievement domain for students who successfully completed a program of study in career and technical education beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 39.053(c)
Effective Date: May 28, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): College Readiness and Success

HB 1247 **RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AND REPORT ON A TRI-AGENCY WORK-BASED LEARNING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK BY THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION, THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY, AND THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**

Author: Lozano

Sponsor: Alvarado

HB 1247 requires the THECB, TWC, and TEA to jointly develop a strategic framework to encourage work-based learning in the state. Each agency shall appoint an existing agency employee to lead the development of the framework. The agencies shall prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on the framework developed and include recommendations by December 31, 2022.

Code Reference: Adds Labor Code, Chapter 318
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division(s): Finance, Academic Affairs and Workforce Education,
College Readiness and Success

HB 2827 **RELATING TO THE TRANSFER TO THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD OF CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER COUNSELING**

Author: Gonzalez

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 2827 transfers statutory responsibilities to develop and make available postsecondary education and career counseling academies from the Center for Teaching and Learning at

The University of Texas at Austin to the THECB. Specifically, the act formalizes in statute a transfer of Texas OnCourse from The University of Texas to the THECB that had previously been executed through interagency agreement. Funding and Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) associated with OnCourse were likewise transferred to the agency's budget in the General Appropriations Act.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 33.009
Effective Date: June 18, 2021
Appropriation: Funds and FTE transferred to THECB budget

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): College and Career Readiness

HB 3767 **RELATING TO MEASURES TO SUPPORT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRI-AGENCY WORKFORCE INITIATIVE AND ADDITIONAL EMPLOYER WORKFORCE DATA REPORTING**

Author: Murphy

Sponsor: Bettencourt

HB 3767 codifies the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and requires the THECB, TEA, and TWC to enter into interagency agreements to share, match, and manage education and workforce data and coordinate resources. The commissioner of education, commissioner of higher education, and chair of the TWC are directed to discuss the work of the initiative at least once per quarter. The agencies shall jointly develop statewide workforce development goals and strategies as well as create and biennially update a list of career pathways for both target occupations based on current needs and critical careers based on forecasted demands. The agencies shall consult with employers to develop and then update these goals and strategies at least every four years. The agencies shall also determine for each county, the wage that constitutes a self-sufficient wage, which must be based on a common standard that reflects the regionally adjusted minimum employment earnings necessary to meet a family's basic needs while also maintaining self-sufficiency.

The THECB, with input from the TEA and TWC, shall develop a strategic plan for the operation of a unified repository for education and workforce data. The plan must include specific recommendations for automatically matching student-level data, creating publicly available tools and resources regarding data on a variety of topics, including student outcomes and debt, making student data available to authorized entities to support higher education and workforce, and creating a secure portal for authorized entities to view and analyze comprehensive longitudinal data on progress toward meeting the state's workforce needs. Using federal workforce funds to the extent available, the TEA and THECB are directed to make available to each public school and institution of higher education student outcome information, including credential completion, employment status and industry of employment, and earnings over time. The agencies are only required to implement these two requirements of the act if funding is provided for that purpose.

The THECB and TWC, in consultation with TEA and relevant stakeholders, are authorized to establish a publicly accessible web-based library of credentials available to Texans and used by employers in the state. The THECB is also authorized to develop several internet resources for the initiative, including various dashboards and tools.

Code Reference: Adds Government Code, Subtitle G, Title 10, Chapter 2308A
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division(s): Finance, Academic and Health Affairs, Data Privacy,
College and Career Readiness

HB 3938 **RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN DUTIES TO THAT ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Author: Bell

Sponsor: Powell

HB 3938 establishes the Industry-Based Certification Advisory Council to advise TWC on alignment of public secondary career and technical education programs with current and future state workforce needs. The council is composed of nine members, three each representing state industry, public school teachers, and public two-year colleges.

The council is charged to develop an inventory of industry-based certificates and credentials that may be earned by a public high school student in a CTE program and that are aligned to regional and state workforce needs and provide entry points to middle- and high-wage jobs. The council may consult with local workforce boards, the Texas Workforce Investment Council, the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, and THECB in developing the inventory. The council shall review and revise the inventory annually.

Code Reference: Adds Labor Code, Subtitle B, Title 4, Chapter 312
Transfers and Amends Education Code 29.189 to Labor Code, Chapter 312
Effective Date: June 15, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

HB 4361 **RELATING TO OFF-CAMPUS WORKFORCE EDUCATION OR LOWER-DIVISION PROGRAMS
OFFERED BY A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE REQUEST OF AN
EMPLOYER**

Author: Raney

Sponsor: Bettencourt

HB 4361 allows an institution of higher education to enter into an agreement with an employer to provide an off-campus workforce education or lower-division program at a site requested by the employer without the approval of a higher education regional council. This would apply regardless of whether the site is within the institution's uniform state service region or service area.

If the proposed site is within the service region or service area of another institution that offers the same or substantially equivalent coursework, the employer must have solicited an agreement to offer the program with that institution but been unable to reach agreement within six weeks after the employer's initial written solicitation requesting the institution to offer the program.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 51.981
Effective Date: June 14, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

SB 346 **RELATING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS GRANT PROGRAM**

Author: Paxton

Sponsor: Dutton

SB 346 allows open-enrollment charter schools to participate in the TWC's Jobs and Education in Texas (JET) Grant Program. The JET program provides grants to public community, state, and technical colleges and independent school districts to purchase and install equipment necessary for the development of career and technical education courses or programs that lead to a license, certificate, or postsecondary degree in a high-demand occupation.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 134.004, 134.006(a) and (d), and 134.007
Effective Date: May 24, 2021
Appropriation: None
THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Workforce Education

SB 369 **RELATING TO THE NOTICE REQUIRED REGARDING THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT A FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION AS A CONDITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Author: Kolkhorst

Sponsor: Allison

SB 369 requires that students and parents be provided greater information regarding the "opt-out" option to the statutory requirement that a student complete a financial aid application as a requirement for high school graduation. It prescribes the information that must be included in a form for opting out of that requirement and prohibits a school counselor from indicating that a student has not complied with the requirement if the school fails to provide the form to the student or parent.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 28.0256(a), (c), (d), and (e)
Effective Date: June 14, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): College Readiness and Success

SB 560 **RELATING TO DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF HIGH-QUALITY BILINGUAL EDUCATION**

Author: Lucio

Sponsor: Guerra

SB 560 charges the TEA, in collaboration with the THECB and TWC, to establish a strategic plan to improve and expand bilingual education. Among other requirements, the plan must set tangible goals and establish timelines to increase the number of educators certified in bilingual education instruction, the number of dual language immersion/one-way and two-way program models used in public schools, and the number of bilingual and multilingual high school graduates.

In developing the strategic plan, TEA is to consult with universities, public schools, early childhood education programs, and parents, and is authorized to collaborate with nonprofit organizations, social services providers, faith-based organizations, and the business community. TEA is also required to study the use of the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test and make any recommendations to modify or revise the assessments to enhance the competency of educators serving bilingual programs.

The strategic plan is due no later than December 1, 2022.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 29.067
Effective Date: June 16, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

SB 1094 **RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP EDUCATION EXPENSES USING THE STATE'S PROGRAMS FOR PAYING, PREPAYING, OR SAVING TOWARD THE COSTS OF ATTENDING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Frullo

SB 1094 allows prepaid tuition contracts administered by the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board to be used to pay for tuition and fees associated with registered apprenticeship programs. The bill defines "registered apprenticeship program" as an apprenticeship program that is registered and certified with the United States Department of Labor under Section 1 of the National Apprenticeship Act. The Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board is not responsible for paying amounts exceeding the tuition and fees in a registered apprenticeship program or the existing amount of prepaid tuition contract benefits.

The bill makes conforming changes in the Education Code. The Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board is granted rulemaking authority to accommodate the change.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 54.605(a), 54.619, 54.751, 54.753, 54.765, 54.767, 54.769, 54.774, 54.775, 54.801, and 54.806.
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Student Financial Aid Programs

SB 1277 **RELATING TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN A SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE A DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT**

Author: West

Sponsor: Turner, John

SB 1277 requires that any dual credit program agreement between a public institution of higher education and a school district must designate at least one employee of the district or institution of higher education as responsible for providing academic advising to a student who enrolls in a dual credit course before the student begins the course.

The requirement applies only to an agreement entered into or renewed on or after September 1, 2021.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 28.009(b-2)
Effective Date: May 30, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Academic and Health Affairs

MISCELLANEOUS

SB 783 **RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Murphy

SB 783 adds institutions of higher education, as defined by Education Code 61.003, to the definition of “governmental entities” subject to Government Code requirements that certain construction and installation project contracts provide that any iron or steel product produced through a manufacturing process and used in the project be produced in the United States.

Code Reference: Amends Government Code 2252.201(1)
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

SB 788 **RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODEL DATA-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR SHARING STUDENT INFORMATION BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Howard

SB 788 directs the TEA, THECB, and TWC to jointly develop model data-sharing agreements for the purposes of system evaluation and improved support of students and workforce preparation participants. Specifically, the agencies are directed to develop a model agreement for use among public schools and public and private institutions of higher education, and a model agreement for use among schools, institutions, workforce entities and other entities authorized to receive such information. The model agreements so developed must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 7.012
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

SB 797**RELATING TO THE DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Hughes

Sponsor: Oliverson

SB 797 requires public elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education to display a durable copy of the United States national motto, "In God We Trust," in a conspicuous location in each building, if the copy was donated or purchased through private funds. The bill also requires that the copy of the motto must contain a representation of the United States flag as well as the state flag.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 1.004

Effective Date: June 16, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

SB 1385**RELATING TO THE COMPENSATION AND PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION OF STUDENT ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AT CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Murphy

SB 1385 allows student athletes at Texas institutions of higher education to earn compensation for their name, image, and likeness (NIL) subject to certain conditions and requirements. The act applies to general academic teaching institutions and private and independent institutions of higher education.

Under the legislation, institutions cannot prohibit a student athlete from earning compensation for the use of their NIL when not engaged in official team activities or from obtaining professional representation for matters relating to the use of the athlete's NIL. A scholarship, grant, or similar financial assistance that covers the student athlete's cost of attendance would not be considered compensation. An institution could not prescribe a team contract for an athletic program that prevented a student athlete from using their NIL for a commercial purpose outside of official team activities.

A student athlete would be required to disclose to the institution any proposed contract and cannot enter into a contract for the use of their NIL if the contract conflicts with provisions of the student athlete's team contract, a contract of the institution, an athletic department policy, or the institution's honor code. Athletes cannot enter into a contract if the compensation is: provided by the institution; in exchange for athletic performance or attendance at the institution; in exchange for property owned by the institution or for providing an endorsement while using intellectual property or other property owned by the institution; or for an endorsement of alcohol, tobacco products, sports betting, and certain other categories of business.

Institutions must require student athletes to attend a financial literacy and life skills workshop at the beginning of the student's first and third academic years, to include information on

financial aid, debt management, time management, budgeting, and available academic resources.

Code Reference: Adds Education Code 51.9246
Effective Date: July 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

SB 1525 **RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE**

Author: Creighton

Sponsor: Parker

SB 1525 amends the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) statute to broaden the types of recruited researchers that could qualify an institution for funding under the program. Specifically, it allows funding for a group of researchers (as opposed to only individual researchers) and expands the types of national academic recognitions that are considered highly prestigious for purposes of determining which individuals or groups meet the "distinguished researcher" criterion. The Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office is directed to consult with the commissioner of higher education in adopting rules for implementing the new criteria.

The act also repeals a duplicative section of code from the GURI statute.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 62.161(1) and 62.162(b)
Adds Education Code 62.169
Removes Education Code, Subchapter H, Chapter 62 as added by HB 7 (84th Legislature, Regular Session)
Effective Date: June 7, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

SB 1677 **RELATING TO ELIMINATING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR A PLAN BY CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO INCREASE ENROLLMENT**

Author: Buckingham

Sponsor: Frullo

SB 1677 reduces unnecessary or duplicative reporting requirements for institutions of higher education by allowing the THECB, by rule, to eliminate a reporting requirement if the commissioner of higher education determines that the board has access to an alternative means of collecting data or receiving information sufficient to fulfill the requirement.

In addition, it removes a requirement on the inclusion of faculty academic workload rules and regulations in the operating budgets of higher education institutions and a requirement for state agencies and higher education institutions to post certain types of compensation information for their executive and non-executive staff on their websites. The majority of this information is already reported through other sources.

Code Reference: Amends Education Code 51.402(b) and 659.0201(b)
Adds Education Code 61.0341
Removes Education Code 29.904 and 51.4031 and Government Code 659.026

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): Data Analysis

STATE AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

HB 29 **RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE PROVISION OF TEMPORARY SECURE STORAGE FOR WEAPONS AT CERTAIN PUBLIC BUILDINGS; AUTHORIZING FEES**

Author: Swanson

Sponsor: Hughes

HB 29 authorizes state agencies and political subdivisions to provide secure weapon storage for the temporary storage of any weapon prohibited in a building or portion of a building. Temporary secure weapon storage may be provided by self-service weapon lockers or other secure storage operated by a designated state agency employee. The bill prescribes specific ways in which a person may reclaim a stored weapon and authorizes a state agency to collect a fee of not more than \$5 for the use of a self-service weapon locker or other temporary secure weapon storage. These provisions are not applicable to public schools or institutions of higher education.

Code Reference: Adds Government Code, Chapter 2165, Subchapter J
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Financial Services

HB 957 **RELATING TO LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL REGULATION OF FIREARM SUPPRESSORS**

Author: Oliverson

Sponsor: Springer

HB 957 prevents a state agency and public institutions of higher education from adopting any rule, order, or policy that seeks to enforce (or by consistent action allows the enforcement of) a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation that purports to regulate a firearm suppressor if the statute, order, rule, or regulation imposes a prohibition, restriction, or other regulation that does not exist under the laws of the state of Texas. An entity in violation will be ineligible to receive state grant funds.

Code Reference: Adds Government Code, Chapter 2
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

HB 1118 **RELATING TO STATE AGENCY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPLIANCE WITH CYBERSECURITY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

Author: Capriglione

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 1118 revises statutory cybersecurity training requirements for state agency and local government entities, which includes public community colleges. The bill limits cybersecurity training to employees who perform at least 25% of their required duties on a local government computer and expands required training to elected and appointed officials. A state agency is required to include written certification of the agency's compliance with cybersecurity training requirements in the agency's strategic plan beginning January 1, 2022.

Code Reference: Adds Government Code 772.012 and 2054.5191(a-2)(e) and (f)
 Amends Government Code 2054.5191(a-1) and (b), and 2056.002(b)
 Repeals Government Code 2054.519(f)

Effective Date: May 18, 2021

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead THECB Division(s): Information Solutions and Services

HB 1322 **RELATING TO A SUMMARY OF A RULE PROPOSED BY A STATE AGENCY**

Author: Shaheen

Sponsor: Seliger

HB 1322 requires a state agency, at the time it files notice of a proposed rule, to publish on its website a summary of the proposed rule, written in plain language in both English and Spanish, in accordance with Government Code 2054.1116. A summary is written in plain language if it uses language the general public, including individuals with limited English proficiency, can readily understand because the language is concise and well-organized.

Code Reference: Adds Government Code 2001.023(c) and (d)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division(s): General Counsel

HB 2063 **RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE EMPLOYEE FAMILY LEAVE POOL**

Author: Ordaz Perez

Sponsor: Schwertner

HB 2063 creates the state employee family leave pool to provide eligible state employees more flexibility in bonding with and caring for children during a child's first year following birth, adoption, or foster placement and caring for a seriously ill family member or the employee. Employees may apply for leave time under the family leave pool. The governing body of a state agency, through the establishment of a program, shall allow an employee to voluntarily transfer sick or vacation leave earned to a family leave pool.

Code Reference: Adds Government Code, Chapter 661, Subchapter A-1
Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Human Resources

SB 475 **RELATING TO STATE AGENCY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE RISK AND AUTHORIZATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND THE TEXAS VOLUNTEER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM; AUTHORIZING FEES**

Author: Nelson

Sponsor: Capriglione

SB 475 requires each state agency with more than 150 FTEs to designate a data management officer who will serve on a newly created data management advisory committee led by the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and perform other duties as specified in statute. A state agency shall require each vendor contracting with the agency to provide cloud computing services for the agency to comply with the requirements of the state risk and authorization management program developed by DIR.

Each state agency entering into or renewing a contract with a vendor authorized to access, transmit, use, or store data for the agency shall include a provision in the contract requiring the vendor to meet the security controls the agency determines are proportionate with the agency's risk based on the sensitivity of the agency's data. A state agency, upon initiation of any information resources project, shall classify the data produced from or used in the project and determine appropriate data security and applicable retention requirements for each classification.

SB 475 moves the due date for the agency's information security assessment report to November 15 of each even-numbered year and requires the report include information on the agency's data governance program.

Each state agency shall consider robotic process automation in its administration. A state agency is required to obtain an individual's written or electronic consent before acquiring, retaining, or disseminating certain individual identifying information or records, such as biometric identifiers.

Code Reference: Adds Government Code 2054.0332, 2054.0593, 2054.0594(d), 2054.137, 2054.138, 2054.1161; Chapter 2054, Subchapter N-2 2054.515; Chapter 2059, Subchapter E; and Chapter 2062
Amends Government Code 2054.601

Effective Date: June 14, 2021; Section 10 takes effect September 1, 2021
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division(s): Information Solutions and Services

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