



FINAL REPORT
83RD LEGISLATIVE SESSION
2013



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INTRODUCTION

This final report provides a synopsis of legislation passed during the Texas 83rd legislative session that is relevant to Houston Community College (HCC) and community colleges in general. The report's principal purpose is to introduce the reader to new laws passed during the aforementioned session and position HCC to comply with new state policy standards.

As the session convened, generally state revenue was up approximately \$8 billion due to strong consumer spending and booming oil and gas production. There was an estimated \$12 billion in the state's Rainy Day fund, indicating the Texas economy was stronger, as compared to the prior session period; thus, more state funds were available to address pending state fiscal needs. Moreover, the state's leadership identified water and transportation as priority policy concerns, and redistricting and abortion legislation became priority considerations during the course of three special sessions.

In the regular session, community colleges sought adoption of a 5-Point Plan that included workforce and skills alignment, funding success points, college readiness, transfer and articulation, and Texans in community colleges. Each of these issues received positive treatment, as community colleges and the state continue to refine the methodology for measuring student success during the interim session period.

As the reader considers this final report, general observations, as each applies to HCC include:

- HCC's base formula funding slightly increased by 3% from \$137,839,948 in 2012-2013 to \$138,297,870 in 2014-2015;
- Group Health Insurance totaled \$19,286,870 for the biennium, up from the prior session appropriation of \$15,716,695;
- Neither did HCC nor any other community college receive new campus funding;
- HCC's hire local first legislation stalled on the House Calendar;
- HCC was successful in passing legislation that provides for a study to assess the feasibility of offering baccalaureate degree programs at certain community colleges;
- Portions of east Fort Bend Independent School District became part of the HCC service area;
- Proposed bills relating to the carrying of concealed handguns on the campuses of higher education institutions failed passage

The 83rd legislative session adjourned (sine die) May 27, 2013 followed by three special sessions. The first special session ended June 25 and the second on July 30. The third session began immediately on adjournment of the second and ended August 5, 2013. HCC tracked approximately 300 bills and resolutions and ultimately identified 83 that have relevant impact to the institutions' operations. This report further provides an overview of funds received by community colleges, a synopsis of relevant bills that relate to community colleges including the bills' purpose, and the effective date of implementation to ensure compliance with the law. This is HCC's ***Final Report of the 83rd Regular Legislative Session:***

STATE OF TEXAS APPROPRIATIONS (2014-2015)

The state of Texas appropriations for 2014-2015 provide for the following:

- \$197.0 billion from all fund sources in SB1, the General Appropriations Act, a \$7.1 billion increase over the 2012-2013 biennium.
- \$101.4 billion in general revenue funding, a \$7.6 billion increase from 2012-2013 biennial funding.
- Public and higher education appropriations made up 37.6% of all funds and 52.5% of general revenue appropriations.
- The appropriation for public community colleges, which comes entirely from state general revenue, increased by \$32.1 million over the prior biennium to \$1.7815 billion.

Two supplemental appropriations bills also passed – HB 10 and HB 1025. HB 10, adopted early in the session, covered a \$4.5 billion general revenue shortfall for Medicaid and a \$630 million shortfall in funding the Foundation School Program. HB 1025, which passed at the end of the session, appropriated an additional \$1 billion in general revenue to various agencies, mostly to the Highway Fund for the remainder of fiscal year 2013, and \$200 million more for the Foundation School Program. It also authorized using almost \$4 billion from the Rainy Day Fund. \$1.75 billion of that reversed a delay in payments to school districts adopted in 2011 and \$2 billion was allocated to finance the state water plan, contingent upon passage of a constitutional amendment.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE APPROPRIATIONS

The appropriations outcome for community colleges stemmed from the legislature's adoption of the Texas Association of Community Colleges' (TACC) recommendation that includes the following:

- \$50 million for core operations (\$1 million for the biennium to each community college).
- 10% set-aside, about \$86 million per year, for Student Success (based on outcome versus inputs).
- 90% distribution, based on contact hours: about \$1.54 billion in general revenue for the biennium.

STUDENT SUCCESS FUNDING METHODOLOGY

In an effort to identify the methodology that will ultimately determine the amount of student success funding a community college receives, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will convene relevant stakeholders during the interim session period. It is important to identify that the standards established during the interim session period will not impact the 2014-2015 student success appropriation. However, those standards will apply in future biennium and impact a community college's ability to access any student success appropriated funds.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

As it concerns employee benefits, the standard provides that *the number of eligible employees in each college shall be adjusted in proportion to the change in student enrollment at each college during the reporting period, except a college that experiences a decline in student enrollment may petition to maintain the number of eligible employees at the same level as the prior biennium.*

TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM

- TRS contribution is limited to 50% of state contribution of 6.4% and 6.8% in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, respectively.
- ORP contribution is limited to 50% of state contribution of 6.6% of total covered.
- Each community college district's retirement allocation is contingent upon repayment of the amount owed to the state for fiscal year 2012-2013.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

General revenue funding for Texas Grants was increased by \$135.1 million to \$724.6 million for the biennium. Money previously allocated to the B-On-Time loan program for community college students was transferred to the Texas Education Opportunity Grant Program, raising the appropriation from about \$12 million, per year, to \$13.9 million, per year.

HIRE LOCAL FIRST

Principally advocated by HCC, "hire local first" legislation (HB 1373) relating to consideration of a bidder's principal place of business by public junior college districts in awarding contracts, proceeded to the House Local and Consent Calendar after receiving a unanimous favorable vote from the House Government Efficiency and Reform Committee. The bill stalled and failed passage.

BACCALAUREATE IN NURSING (BSN)

Principally advocated by HCC, the desire for certain community colleges to offer the baccalaureate of nursing degree passed in modified form. New law (SB 414) requires the THECB to study and report, by August 1, 2014, whether regional workforce needs indicate certain regions would benefit from authorizing baccalaureate nursing or applied sciences degrees and whether any community colleges serving the region should be allowed to offer the programs.

DUAL CREDIT CHANGE

New law (HB 5) provides a change in the manner community colleges and independent school districts (ISD) administer dual credit programs. Specifically, the law provides that an ISD may choose the community college with which the ISD contracts when seeking to offer dual credit programs for its students, despite the statutory limitations of service area boundaries, with exception (i.e., a student may not enroll in more than three courses at a junior college, if the junior college does not have a service area that includes the student's high school). A student enrolled at an early college high school may, however, enroll in a greater number of courses if approved by the commissioner of education. As it concerns whether the limit applies on a semester or annual basis, the law is silent, but agency counsel preliminarily interprets the law to mean the limitation is three courses in either case, unless otherwise authorized by the commissioner of education.

HCC SPECIFIC APPROPRIATIONS

- Academic/Vocational Education 2014: **\$ 62,190,430**
- Academic/Vocational Education 2015: **\$ 62,190,430**
- Core Operations Funding: **\$ 1,000,000**
- Student Success Funding: **\$ 12,917,010**

- Total 2014-2015 base funding: **\$138,297,870**

- Above total is 3% more than prior biennium.
- Prior biennium (2012-2013) base funding: **\$137,839,948**

HCC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (HEGI)

The HCC HEGI appropriation, as it appears in the Conference Committee Report, is as follows:

- **\$ 9,302,498 (2014)**
- **\$ 9,984,372 (2015)**
- **\$19,286,870 (2014-2015)**

NEW CAMPUS FUNDING

While HCC requested new campus funding, based upon anticipated contact hours, resulting from building new and expanding existing facilities totaling \$4.086 million, the Legislature did not fund any portion of the request for the 2014-2015 biennium.

APPROPRIATIONS/ FISCAL MATTERS

HB 10 (Pitts/Williams)

Relating to making emergency supplemental appropriations and providing direction and transfer authority regarding certain appropriations.

The first supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 2013. Increased state spending by \$6.9 billion to cover shortfalls in the Foundation School Program, CHIP and Medicaid and pulled down another \$6.65 billion in federal funds for those purposes.

Effective Date: March 13, 2013.

HB 1025 (Pitts/Williams)

Relating to making supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.

The second supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 2013. Increased general and dedicated revenue spending by \$786 million in FY 2013. Also appropriates an additional \$387 million in GR-related funds for the FY 2014 – 2015 biennium. Appropriates \$1.9 billion from the Economic Stabilization (“Rainy Day”) Fund in FY 2013 to undo the delay of August payments to school districts and to fund some DPS expenses, freeing up \$186 million to be spent on highways. Appropriates \$2 billion in FY 2014 to fund the Texas Water Plan revolving loan fund.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 1 (Williams/Pitts)

General Appropriations Bill.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

ELECTIONS

HB 985 (Elkins/Huffman)

Relating to the deadlines by which provisional ballots must be processed and the state canvass must be conducted for certain elections.

Sets separate counting and canvassing deadlines for the gubernatorial election year.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 637 (Paxton/Flynn)

Relating to notice and proposition language requirements for bond approval elections held by political subdivisions.

Establishes specific requirements for the content and posting of documents ordering a bond election to issue public debt.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

PROPERTY/ TAXATION

HB 97 (Perry/Van de Putte)

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the appraised value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse.

Grants a partial exemption in proportion to the percentage of disability. Contingent on passage of HJR 24 in November.

Effective Date: January 1, 2014.

HJR 24 (Perry/Van de Putte)

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse.

Would permit legislature to provide a partial ad valorem tax exemption to a partially disabled veteran in proportion to the disability percentage if the homestead was donated to the veteran by a charitable organization to the veteran and if the amendment is adopted by voters at Nov. 5, 2013 general election.

Effective Date: November 5, 2013.

HJR 62 (C. Turner/Van de Putte)

Providing for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services who is killed in action.

Would permit legislature to provide an ad valorem tax exemption to a surviving spouse of a serviceman killed in action, if the amendment is adopted by voters at Nov. 5, 2013 general election.

Effective Date: November 5, 2013.

SB 163 (Van de Putte/Turner, C.)

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed in action.

Extends the exemption to a surviving spouse who has not remarried. Contingent on voter approval of HJR 62.

Effective Date: January 1, 2014.

SB 1061 (Van de Putte/Menendez)

Relating to parking privileges of disabled veterans on the property of institutions of higher education.

Permits vehicles of disabled veterans to park for unlimited time in handicapped parking spaces regardless of whether a permit is otherwise required.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

TUITION AND FEES

HB 1296 (Alvarado/Taylor)

Relating to providing information to assist postsecondary educational institutions in addressing the state's projected workforce needs for training and education.

Requires TEA to post online information about post-secondary education and work opportunities. Information must compare tuition cost, retention rate, graduation rate, average student debt, loan repayment rate, and employment rate of students at each higher education institution. Requires joint study with Workforce Commission of projected workforce, education and training needs.

Effective Date: June 14, 2014.

HB 2448 (Turner, S./Whitmire)

Relating to tuition for certain students residing outside of a junior college district.

Requires the governing board of a community college with at least six campuses to waive tuition for residents where super neighborhoods are established prior to January 1, 2013 and residents pay taxes in an adjacent community college district. The legislative intent, as recorded in the Texas House Journal, provides that the law seeks to address a matter that affects only those students who are residents of the Acres Home community and attend HCC and Lone Star Community College.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 435 (Duncan/Cortez)

Relating to the payment of tuition for public high school students who participate in college credit programs.

Makes permanent the provision that a school district is not required to pay a student's tuition for dual-credit courses. (The provision would have expired on Sept. 1, 2013.)

Effective Date: June 14, 2014.

SB 976 (West/Branch)

Relating to the temporary approval of an institution to participate in the tuition equalization grant program.

Among other things, amends the Education Code to authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to temporarily approve for participation in the tuition equalization grant program a private or independent institution of higher education that previously qualified as an approved institution but no longer holds the same accreditation.

Effective Date: June 14, 2014.

SB 1158 (Van de Putte/Menendez)

Relating to higher education for veterans and their families.

Modifies definition and requirements for permanently disabled veterans and their families to receive a tuition exemption. Transfers rule-making authority from the THECB to the Veterans Commission.

Effective Date: June 14, 2014.

SB 1210 (Zaffirini/Branch)

Relating to conditions on the receipt of tuition and fee exemptions and waivers at public institutions of higher education.

Makes continuation of a tuition waiver or exemption contingent upon the student maintained a satisfactory GPA and not completed an excessive number of hours. Requires institutions to adopt policies for hardship waiver of these requirements.

Effective Date: June 14, 2014.

GOVERNANCE

HB 483 (Aycocock/Fraser)

Relating to a public hearing held on the issue of making a payment in excess of the compensation contracted for by a political subdivision.

Amends current law relating to a public hearing held on the issue of making a payment in excess of the compensation contracted for by a political subdivision.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 561 (Workman, Eiland, Naishtat/Seliger)

Relating to an exemption for land owned by a school from the additional tax imposed on the change of use of land appraised for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land.

Amends current law relating to an exemption for land owned by a school from the additional tax imposed on the change of use of land appraised for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land. Allows public and private educational institutions an exemption from the penalty for land sold or transferred to the institution that is converted to an educational use.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 1035 (Huberty/Patrick)

Relating to the filing of reports of political contributions and expenditures and of personal financial statements by certain officeholders and candidates.

Amends the Election Code to require the Ethics Commission to ensure that reports filed with authorities other than the Commission are filed by first class mail; by personal delivery; or (c) via electronic filing.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 1050 (Callegari/Fraser)

Relating to purchasing and other contracts by governmental entities.

Requires local governments to meet certain criteria for construction-related and purchasing goods or services contracts greater than \$50,000.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 581 (Carona/Villarreal)

Relating to procedures for securing the deposit of public funds.

Promotes strong public interest in the safety and management of public funds. Seeks to align custodial obligations concerning issuance and delivery of trust receipts with generally accepted business practices and allows custodian to deliver the trust receipt not only to the public entity, but also to the depository institution.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 984 (Ellis/Perry)

Relating to the meeting of a governmental body held by videoconference call.

Removes the requirement that a quorum must be physically present and replaces it with requiring the member presiding to be present. Requires recess if meeting is no longer visible and audible to public.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 1773 (Huffman/Bonnen)

Relating to the creation of a select interim committee to review and make recommendations for substantive changes to ethics laws.

Creates a select interim committee to study the effectiveness of laws and regulations related to ethics, including campaign finance, lobby laws, and personal financial disclosure laws. Amends current law relating to creation of a select interim committee to review and make recommendations for substantive changes to ethics laws.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 2668 (Vo/Davis)

Relating to requirements applicable to meetings of the governing board of certain junior college districts.

Promotes transparency of junior college district decision by requiring Internet posting of written agenda and related supplemental materials other than materials subject to attorney-client privilege "as early as practicable". Applies to community colleges with more than 20,000 students, and requires Internet broadcasting and archiving of meetings, other than executive session portions.

Effective Date: June 14, 2014.

SB 1019 (Estes/Frank)

Relating to the investment of funds by the governing boards of certain institutions of higher education.

Permits governing boards with less than \$25 million in book value of endowment funds to pool with an institution that has more than \$25 million.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 1297 (Watson/Branch)

Relating to written electronic communications between members of a governmental body.

Amends Government Code to establish that communications between members of a governmental body about public business or public policy over which the governmental body has supervision or control does not constitute a meeting or deliberation for purposes of state open meetings law, if the communication is in writing, the writing is posted to an online message board or similar Internet application that is viewable and searchable by the public, among other unstated requirements. Votes may not be cast through this method.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

GENERAL

HB 5 (Aycock/Patrick)

Relating to public school accountability, including assessment, and curriculum requirements.

Transforms the former high school “graduation plans” by creating a single diploma, the foundation program, and enables students to pursue their interests through diploma endorsements; reduces the emphasis on testing by decreasing the number of end-of-course exams required for graduation. School districts must partner with at least one institution of higher education to provide college preparatory classes in English and Math, with dual credit.

Also provides that an ISD may choose the community college with which the ISD contracts when seeking to offer dual credit programs for its students, despite the statutory limitations of service area boundaries, with exception (i.e., a student may not enroll in more than three courses at a junior college, if the junior college does not have a service area that includes the student’s high school). A student enrolled at an early college high school may, however, enroll in a greater number of courses to the extent approved by the commissioner of education. As it concerns the total course limit imposed at any given period (e.g., semester or annually), the law is silent.

Effective Date: June 10, 2013.

HB 12 (Flynn/Zaffirini)

Relating to gifts made to a state agency for a state employee salary supplement.

Requires agencies, including institutions of higher education, to post and file reports on certain gifts and grant, particularly those that supplement salaries. Requires conflict of interest policies and posting of information about executive salaries.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 13 (Callegari/Duncan)

Relating to the State Pension Review Board and public retirement systems.

Among other things, increases transparency and establishes reporting and board training requirements for public pension funds.

Effective Date: May 24, 2013.

HB 16 (Flynn/Ellis)

Relating to a requirement that a state agency post the results of certain audits on the state agency’s Internet website.

Requires agencies, including institutions of higher education, to post the agency’s audit plan and annual report, other than information excepted from public disclosure under Chapter 552 of the Government Code.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 194 (Farias/Hinojosa)

Relating to considering ownership interests of certain disabled veterans in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting.

Includes veterans with at least a 20% service-connected disability in the definition of a Historically Underutilized Business.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 259 (Simmons/Paxton)

Relating to the regulation of electioneering at a polling location.

Owners of public buildings used for voting may regulate but not prohibit electioneering on the premises outside of the prohibited distance area.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 326 (Dutton/Huffman)

Relating to eligibility to serve on the appraisal review board of an appraisal district.

Permits a member of an appraisal review board who has served three terms to serve again after sitting out one term.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 437 (J. Davis/Seliger)

Relating to career and technical education programs.

Removes non-profit organizations from the JET grants. Creates a new grant program, "ACE," that can give grants to non-profits. Austin Community College bracketed as grant administrator.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 581 (Howard/Lucio)

Relating to a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for state and local governmental entities in certain employment lawsuits filed by nurses.

Permits nurses to sue state and local governments in certain circumstances.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 586 (Workman/Deuell)

Relating to the waiver of sovereign immunity for certain claims arising under written contracts with state agencies.

Permits suits against state agencies or a "system of higher education" for breach of written contract involving engineering, architectural or construction services or materials in certain circumstances.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 809 (Davis/Deuell)

Relating to the dissemination of information regarding employment opportunities in this state to secondary school students.

Requires the Workforce Commission to provide TEA with quarterly current and projected employment opportunities by county or region to assist districts with planning career and technology education programs.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 842 (Bell/Deuell)

Relating to requiring public school districts to provide certain opportunities to career and technical students under the college credit program.

Adds certain credentialing, certificate and apprenticeship programs to dual credit classes that count toward the mandate to offer at least 12 hours of dual credit.

Effective Date: June 10, 2013.

HB 1284 (Johnson/Huffman)

Relating to the offense of making or causing a false alarm or report involving a public or private institution of higher education.

Raises an offense involving an institution of higher education to a state jail felony and requires institutions to give notice of the penalty to incoming students.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 1297 (Alvarado/Estes)

Relating to the review of certain skills development fund workforce training programs.

Requires each community college that provides workforce training to conduct a review with the A&M Engineering Extension Service of the effectiveness of the programs in improving participants' wages and identify strategies for improving training.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 1597 (Gonzalez/Hinojosa)

Relating to installment agreements for the payment of delinquent ad valorem taxes.

Changes timing for individuals eligible to pay taxes on residential homestead by installments.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 2051 (Villalba/Carona)

Relating to the authority of public institutions of higher education to make certain investments to support technology commercialization.

Expands the investment options for Centers for Technology Development and Transfer created by institutions of higher education under Chapter 153 of the Education Code.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 2099 (Guillen/Hinojosa)

Relating to improving access to nursing education programs.

Requires the THECB to adopt a common electronic admission application form for nursing programs it determines would be cost-efficient.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 2103 (Villarreal/Seliger)

Relating to education research centers and data sharing among cooperating state agencies.

Requires the THECB to establish up to three education research centers as part of an individual community or senior college or university or a consortium of them.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 2127 (Howard/Watson)

Relating to the eligibility of certain employees of public institutions of higher education to participate in a state group benefits program.

Lowers the eligibility requirement for adjunct faculty from the preceding three years to the preceding academic year.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 2155 (Callegari/Duncan)

Relating to eligibility of certain dependents for coverage under the state employee group benefits program.

Permits coverage for all mentally or physically incapacitated children over age 26 regardless of previous insurance coverage.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 2414 (Button/Deuell)

Relating to requirements for open meetings held by videoconference call.

Establishes procedures and requirements for participation of a member or employee of a governmental body in an open meeting.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 2474 (King/Estes)

Relating to the use of proceeds from a junior college district branch campus maintenance tax.

Expands the permissible use of community branch campus taxes to enable issuers to receive more favorable ratings when they issue or refinance revenue bonds.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 2478 (Alvarado/Watson)

Relating to the collection, analysis, and reporting of certain job and skills shortage information by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Requires the Workforce Commission to conduct a study of existing and projected shortages in high-wage, high-demand occupations.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 2550 (Patrick/Zaffirini)

Relating to the consolidation of the Higher Education Enrollment Assistance Program and the Higher Education Assistance Plan and the transfer of certain enrollment assistance duties to institutions of higher education.

Requires the THECB to identify *the institution of higher education in closest geographic proximity to a public high school . . . substantially below the state average in the number of graduates who enroll in higher education* and have them enter into an agreement to create a plan to increase the number of higher education enrollees from that high school.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 2760 (Branch/Birdwell)

Relating to partnerships between the Texas State Technical College System and public junior colleges.

Permits TSTC to enter into partnership agreements with community colleges.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 3028 (Davis/Birdwell)

Relating to the use of the skills development fund to support certain joint credit courses offered by school districts under agreements with public junior colleges.

Permits up to 5% of the money appropriated to the skills development fund to be awarded to community colleges, state colleges or TSTC to support dual credit programs that lead to an industry-recognized license, credential or certificate. The program must be targeted to high-demand fields identified by a local workforce board and have a letter of support from at least one employer.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 3332 (Keffer/Fraser)

Relating to junior college district territory annexation and program approval in certain counties.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 3357 (Callegari/Duncan)

Relating to the administration of and benefits payable by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Makes numerous changes to the operation and management of TRS. Changes ORP post-retirement designation and change rules for spouses and former spouses.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

HB 3659 (Reynolds/Ellis)

Relating to the Houston Community College System District service area.

Adds that part of Fort Bend ISD located within the municipal boundaries of the cities of Houston and Pearland into the HCC service area.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

HB 3662 (Clardy/Seliger)

Relating to the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program.

Establishes a new program, overseen by the commissioner of education, for school districts and institutions of higher education to establish innovative programs preparing students for careers in demand and report on methods for improving student learning and career preparedness.

Effective Date: June 10, 2013.

HCR 82 (Hunter/Hinojosa)

Request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of the House of Representatives to create a joint interim committee to study education policy as it relates to developing a skilled workforce.

Requests the creation of a joint interim study as described.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013

SENATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SB 2 (Patrick/Aycock)

Relating to charter schools and home-rule charter school districts, including establishment of the Charter School Authorizing Authority.

Comprehensive overhaul of charter school regulations. Significantly expands the number of potential charter schools by consolidating current holders of multiple charters into a single charter and by expanding the limit on the number of charters from 215 to 285 over five years. Transfers approval of new charters from the SBOE to the commissioner of education. Increases the minimum education requirement for a charter school teacher or principal from a high school diploma to a bachelor's degree.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 31 (Zaffirini/Patrick)

Relating to formula funding for certain semester credit hours earned for dual course credit.

Limits formula funding for dual credit courses, other than those earned at early college programs, to courses that are in the core curriculum of the higher education institution, career and technology courses that apply to a certificate or associate degree offered by the institution, and foreign language courses.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 59 (Nelson/Callegari)

Relating to certain required reports and other documents prepared by state agencies and institutions of higher education.

Exempts certain reporting by a university system or an institution of higher education and makes the exemption inapplicable to a request for information by the state auditor. Also, exempts requirement of institution of higher education to file an annual report with the grant writing team concerning the agency's efforts in acquiring available discretionary federal funds during the preceding state fiscal year, among other things.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 62 (Nelson/Laubenberg)

Relating to the vaccination against bacterial meningitis of entering students at public and private or independent institutions of higher education.

Lowers the age limit from under 30 to under 22 and allows for opt-out over the Internet, and permits community colleges to require same as only method to opt-out.

Effective Date: October 1, 2013.

SB 146 (Williams/Kolkhorst)

Relating to access by a public institution of higher education to the criminal history record information of certain persons seeking to reside in on-campus housing.

Permits access to criminal history information of students applying for on-campus housing.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 215 (Birdwell/Anchia)

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

THECB Sunset bill makes significant changes to powers and responsibilities of the THECB. Requires involvement of affected institutions in adopting rules in major areas like admissions, finances and removes community college students from TEXAS Grant and B-On-Time Loan assistance; the previous funding level is shifted to the TEOG.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 246 (West/Harper-Brown)

Relating to the electronic submission of a request for an attorney general opinion.

Permits the Attorney General to receive opinion requests by email at an address designated for that purpose.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 299 (Estes/Sheets)

Relating to the unintentional display of a weapon by a person licensed to carry a concealed handgun.

Changes the offense standard from "fails to conceal" to "intentionally displays the handgun in plain view". Broadens the permission from "use of deadly force" to "use of force".

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 307 (Huffman/Guillen)

Relating to the transfer of adult education and literacy programs from the Texas Education Agency to the Texas Workforce Commission.

Transfers programs pursuant to a Sunset Commission recommendation. Requires the Commission to develop a performance-based process for awarding funds for adult education and literacy programs. Requires use of a competitive procurement process for awarding contracts.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 359 (Hinojosa/Eiland)

Relating to the selection of certain members of the board of directors of an appraisal district.

Includes community college districts in the governments that appoint the board of directors of appraisal districts.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 366 (Taylor/Callegari)

Relating to the authority of political subdivisions to offer certain deferred compensation plans to employees.

Allows conversion of deferred income to a Roth IRA. Permits administrator of a 457 plan to allow vendors to lend money to a participating employee.

Effective Date: May 18, 2013.

SB 414 (Ellis/Davis, S.)

Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

Requires the THECB to study and report by Aug. 1, 2014 whether regional workforce needs indicate certain regions would benefit from authorizing baccalaureate nursing or applied sciences degrees and whether any community colleges serving the region should be allowed to offer the programs.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 441 (Birdwell/Davis, J.)

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Fast Start Program to promote rapid delivery of workforce education and development.

Requires the Workforce Commission, partnering with the THECB, to identify and award grants to support rapid-deployment delivery models for community colleges, state colleges and TSTC that incorporate competency-based learning techniques and maximize job preparedness.

Effective Date: June 10, 2013.

SB 460 (Deuell/Coleman)

Relating to inclusion of instruction in the detection and education of students with mental or emotional disorders in the requirements for educator training programs.

Adds instruction in the detection and education of students with mental or emotional disorders to the requirements for educator training programs.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 471 (Ellis/Harper-Brown)

Relating to technological efficiencies in the recording of certain open meetings.

Defines "recording" to broadly include a variety of electronic media and deletes references that specify "tape" recording of open meetings.

Effective Date: May 18, 2013.

SB 497 (Seliger/Branch)

Relating to the number of semester credit hours required to earn an associate degree at public institutions of higher education.

Beginning with students enrolled in Fall 2015, a student may not be required to earn more than the minimum number of hours required for an associate degree by the Southern Association, unless an institution determines a compelling academic reason.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 498 (Seliger/Guillen)

Relating to applying credit earned by a student at a general academic teaching institution to an associate degree at a lower-division institution of higher education previously attended by the student.

Lowers the number of cumulative hours a student must have completed to be awarded an associate degree from 90 hours to 66 hours.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 533 (Zaffirini/Keffer)

Relating to a review of cost savings to state agencies and institutions of higher education under energy savings performance contracts.

Requires the THECB to review reports that measure and verify cost savings.

Effective Date: September 14, 2013.

SB 939 (West/Parker)

Relating to reporting child abuse and neglect and to training regarding recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect at schools, institutions of higher education, and other entities.

Requires education institutions, including higher education, to adopt policies governing the reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 1368 (Davis/Alvarado)

Relating to contracts by certain state governmental entities that involve the exchange or creation of public information.

Significantly broadens the definitions of what constitutes public information and prohibits its waiver by contract.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 1458 (Duncan/Callegari)

Relating to the administration of and benefits payable by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Makes significant changes to the eligibility and calculation of benefits. Provides for a one-time cost-of-living adjustment for certain retirees.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 1459 (Duncan/Callegari)

Relating to the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

Makes changes to certain determinations of eligibility and calculation of benefits. Provides for a one-time cost-of-living adjustment for certain retirees.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 1525 (Zaffirini/Patrick)

Relating to including disability awareness training in risk management programs required for members and advisors of student organizations at postsecondary educational institutions.

Amends the Education Code to authorize a risk management program for members and advisors of student organizations and requires, as appropriate, the program to address issues regarding persons with disabilities, including a review of applicable requirements of federal, and state law, and related policies of the institution.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 1557 (Lucio/Villarreal)

Relating to business participation in supporting early college high schools.

The commissioner of education, the Workforce Commission, and the THECB shall develop a plan to encourage businesses and non-profit organizations to contribute in support of early college high schools.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

SB 1604 (Zaffirini/Howard)

Relating to asset management and acquisition by institutions of higher education.

Provides that any contract for goods and services by an institution of higher education includes all provisions of applicable law even if they are not stated in the contract or the contract contains contrary provisions.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 1812 (Duncan/Otto)

Relating to state contributions for participation by certain junior college employees in the state employees group benefits program, Teacher Retirement System of Texas, and Optional Retirement System.

Fixes the share of contributions to be paid by the state and the community colleges at 50% each, except that the number of qualifying employees may not be increased by greater than the percentage of student enrollment and may not be reduced by more than 2% if enrollment declines.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013.

SB 1907 (Hegar/Kleinschmidt)

Relating to the transportation and storage of concealed handguns and ammunition by students in vehicles on the campuses of institutions of higher education.

Concealed handgun licensees are entitled to possess firearms and ammunition kept in locked vehicle on campus streets or parking areas.

Effective Date: September 1, 2013.

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